The National Archives' reference PREM 19/1300

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5. For your own information we are quite content for you to continue the main negotiation with Traiki. ~~We are not getting anywhere with~~ Fitouri clearly carries no weight. Whether or not you use the above-mentioned discretion, however, we should also like you to take an opportunity to float with Traiki the possibility that the Libyans should send a suitable high-level representative ~~emissary~~ to London in the near future. ~~Such an emissary might be Traiki himself,~~ Younis Bilqasim ~~or some more senior figure~~ might be a good choice. Whoever it is, ~~It~~ would be essential that he should be able to take decisions and communicate urgently with his authorities at home at the highest level. His mission would be to find with us an urgent solution to the problems created here by the shooting incident and ~~fully adequate~~ convincing ways of preventing any recurrence. 6. For your information only, we are beginning to find the measured pace of the Libyan reactions to our approaches increasingly irksome: we should like you to get across to the Libyans the need for more rapid progress but without letting them think that they have got us under time pressure.

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword ~~6~~ 7.

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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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6. 7. You should naturally take any appropriate opening to press for the release of the B.Cal Manager, Ledingham, and also of Campbell who was detained early on 17 April apparently not (not) in relation to the shooting incident later that morning.

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ZCZC

GRS

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 201800Z APR 84

TO FLASH TRIPOLI

TELEGRAM NUMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 210001Z GOVERNOR HONG KONG FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY ~~AND LIBYA CRISIS DISTRIBUTION~~

YOUR TELSNOS 191 AND 192: ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. Thank you for these clear reports and for your own interesting suggestions.

2. We must not lose sight of our central concern in this which is to resolve as quickly as possible the problems created by the shooting from the Libyan People's Bureau (LPB) in St James's Square. We stand by the proposals we have already put to the Libyans (which we note have not (not) been rejected). However, setting aside for the moment the question of our official relations, our minimum requirements are three:

(A) that all the current occupants of the LPB should leave the UK:

(B) that our own diplomatic staff should leave Libya in safety: and

(C)

Em unit

Libyan Crisis

C W LONG

4692

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<<<<

(C) that we should be satisfied that all weapons and explosives have been removed from the LPB and that the building will no longer be capable of being used as a base for terrorist acts.

We must focus the attention of the Libyan authorities on the fact that the short-term problem which they have created requires an urgent and adequate solution.

3. Please now seek an urgent further meeting with Traiki and confirm to us as soon as you have an appointment. We assume that this may be possible during the course of tomorrow morning 21 April. Subject to any comments from the S of S's party in Hong Kong you should then speak as follows in response to what Traiki said to you this morning. You should say that the latest Libyan ideas have been discussed here. We are glad to hear that the Libyan authorities regret the shooting incident. We note Traiki's remark that the Libyans had not ordered the firing or any use of weapons. None the less there could be no doubt that shots were fired from the LPB on the morning of 17 April which killed a police-woman and injured law-abiding demonstrators and that this poses a grave problem which requires a speedy and definitive solution. We have noted the Libyan decision to appoint a high-level commission of investigation. You should however point out that the LPB is not (not) Libyan territory but under the normal rules of international law remains the territory of the host country but entitled to inviolability in accordance with the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations to which we are both parties. We should none the less be prepared to supply documentary material relating to the shooting incident to the Libyan Commission of Investigation in Tripoli. But incidents which ~~take place in the United Kingdom notwithstanding any diplomatic immunity that may exist in a particular case. It is for this reason that the legal investigation of the death of the~~ take place ~~police-woman~~

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword

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HOWE

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In the light of your msg with T we wish the first decision on action to proceed with HMG should be non-resident issues we wish to proceed to unilateral basis. Then in the meantime we should take account of your views on the spirit of our people's Tripoli; but we should bear this ~~means~~ needs to remain a decision of long or long detriment.

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword

The National Archives' reference PREM 19/1300

CONFIDENTIAL FLASH

ZCZC
GRS
CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 201800Z APR 84
TO FLASH TRIPOLI
TELEGRAM NUMBER
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Em unit

Libyan Crisis

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Page 4

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HOWE

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword

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Prime Minister

Only aware

FROM: N F Reid, Consular Section
Emergency Unit
DATE: 20 April 1984

PS
PS/Mr Luce
PS/Mr Whitney
PS/PUS
Chief Clerk
Sir J Bullard
Sir J Leahy
Lord N Gordon Lennox
Mr Egerton
Mr Adams
Mr Wright
NENAD
News Department
MAED
Consular Department
PUSD
Security Department
Protocol Department
Legal Advisers
No 10 Downing Street
Cabinet Office

LIBYA: CONSULAR SITREP: ~~1800~~ 19 APRIL TO 0600 20 APRIL 1984

Detainees

1. We have heard nothing further on Messrs Ledingham and Campbell.

Enquiries from the public

2. There were over 30 telephone calls from members of the public about the welfare of individuals in Libya. As before, the names of those concerned have been noted and we have promised to call the enquirers if we hear anything specific. There were a handful of calls from prospective travellers to Libya asking for advice. We have taken the line that if their journey is not essential they should postpone travel for the time being but discreetly we have made a fine nuance for those employed on rotation with the larger companies such as Mobil Oil or Shell (in that they could be considered as an asset to the Libyan economy) by not so actively dissuading them from travelling. The final decision, however, it was emphasised, must lie with the individual.

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3. Mr Robert John Smith rang a friend to report that he had had his passport taken from him but gave no details of where or by whom. His brother, who telephoned, was hoping that he would ring again and if so said he would let us have more details. Meanwhile, we sent a telegram to Tripoli asking for information should they hear more of the loss as Mr Smith's family were concerned.

4. Two callers with relatives in the desert expressed concern that they probably had no way of knowing the situation in and around Tripoli and could come up against a difficult situation totally unprepared. I could not offer much comfort on this point other than to say that the Embassy would do all they could to help if the people concerned contacted them.

5. Mr Braskerud, a free-lance journalist, who claimed to be Norwegian (and had an accent) rang to say he had been in touch with the Seat of Government in Tripoli and was expecting a telephone call from Gadaffi whom he had known when they were both students in London. Mr Braskerud felt he could well have a real contribution to make in dialogue on the Libyan question. I took his telephone number (Oslo 564627) and asked him to ring again if he had anything more concrete to report. He urged me not to think him a crank although he accepted that he might come over as such!

Norah F. Reid

N F Reid (Miss)
Emergency Unit

20 April 1984

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DSR 11C

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TO BE CLEARED WITH PARLIAMENT]

BEFORE TO FOCUS ON INCIDENT NOT ON DIP RELS

TEXT OF MESSAGES FROM PRIME MINISTER TO CERTAIN HEADS OF STATE

As Your Majesty/Your Excellency may know, our relations with Libya have been difficult for several years. They reached a new low in March, when agents of a so-called Revolutionary Committee sent in to cow Libyan dissidents in Britain exploded bombs in London and Manchester, causing several injuries but no (no) fatalities. But the appalling incident of 17 April, when a sub-machine gun was fired from a window of the Libyan People's Bureau and resulted in the ~~fatal~~ death ~~wounding~~ of a British police-woman and serious injury to a number of Libyans, has ~~taken Anglo-Libyan relations to unparalleled depths~~ created an unprecedented crisis in our relationship with Libya.

We are seeking an urgent solution to the present crisis, and I should be most grateful if I could have the benefit of your help in bringing home to the Libyan leadership at the earliest possible moment and at the highest level the facts of the situation and the need for them to cooperate with us in resolving the crisis. I hope you will feel free to draw on as much of what follows as you think fit.

The present crisis is not merely a question of our relations with the Libyans: It is a matter of resolving an acute problem arising out of a gross breach of international law which has led to a continuing confrontation ~~which is~~ not of our seeking.

/We

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We have from the start sought to resolve the ~~situation~~ crisis peacefully ~~from the start~~ with the cooperation of the Libyan authorities but this has not been so far forthcoming.

The problem is acute and speed is required lest further difficulties should arise. It ~~is~~ needs urgent action.

The Libyans have so far sought to suggest that we should simply put the latest incident behind us, and review our future relations together. This is completely unacceptable to my Government. There is not the slightest doubt that ~~a~~ the machine-gun involved was fired from the premises of the Libyan People's Bureau in London. The explosion late on 20 April of a bomb at Heathrow Airport ~~seriously~~ injuring a number of British people is a further very serious development. I have as yet no definite evidence to link this latest incident firmly with Libya, but there must clearly be a strong presumption that it is relevant.

I hope therefore that Your Majesty/Your Excellency may be able to urge the Libyan leadership to cooperate with us in finding a solution on the lines which we think are necessary. These are that the building of the Libyan People's Bureau in London should be fully cleared of all its current occupants and weapons. We are prepared to do this on

/the

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~~the basis of~~ In agreement with the Libyan authorities and on the basis that all those in the building will be allowed to depart with their property and archives without any form of search, whether or not they are accredited diplomats. We have reason to believe that there are a number of other Libyans in the building. We hope the Libyan authorities will understand that this solution provides a means of resolving the crisis without further confrontation. I should stress that my Government is determined to proceed throughout in strict accordance with ~~the current norms of~~ international law.

? No reference to our Embassy in Tripoli?
Is this deliberate - or unwilling?

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File No. .....

Department .....
Drafted by
(Block Capitals) .....

Tel. Extn. .....

OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

Security Classification

Precedence
FLASH

DESKBY .....

FOR COMMS. DEPT. USE

Despatched (Date) .....
(Time) ..... Z

POSTBY .....

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) ..... Z (G.M.T.)

(Security Class.) .....

(Codeword) .....

(Resolution Prefix) .....
(Caveat)
Privacy marking) .....

(Deskby) ..... Z

TO ..... FLASH (precedence) ..... PABAT (post) ..... Tel No. ..... of .....

AND TO (precedence/post) FLASH NEW DELHI, ISLAMABAD, ALGIERS, UKMIS NEW YORK

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INFO SAVING .....

Distribution:

Pass Chek,
No 10
Downing Street

Copies -

[TEXT]

LIBYAN CRISIS

THE TEXT of A

1. MIFT contains ~~messages~~ from the Prime Minister to be delivered to King Hassan, Mrs ~~Ghandi~~ Gandhi, President Zia, President Chadli, President Zaid and the UN Secretary-General. Please arrange to pass on ~~these messages~~ the text by the most urgent means. You have discretion to make any small changes which you judge essential repeat essential. The important thing is to take action rapidly.

2. The aim of these messages is to try to bring pressure to bear on Qadhafi to be co-operative but in a way which does not provoke him into further acts of violence, whether through his agents in the UK or directly against our

Embassy

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Embassy or the British community in Libya.

3 For Abu Dhabi. This supersedes our telno 112.

FOR UKMIS New York. Please take this as our response to your telno 409.

4. Please report developments, same priority.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

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5

SECRET

RECORD OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER IN LISBON AND THE HOME SECRETARY IN LONDON AT 0710 ON 19 APRIL, 1984

The Prime Minister thanked the Home Secretary for the careful analysis contained in FCO tel no. 97 of 18 April. She was inclined to favour option 2(c): that is, to work towards a full evacuation of the Peoples Bureau and of our Embassy staff in Tripoli, making clear as part of the negotiating package that diplomatic relations were to be broken off. The Prime Minister attached importance to getting every Libyan out of St. James's Square and closing the building.

The Prime Minister agreed that an intermediary might be helpful if a good one could be identified: she left it to the Home Secretary to judge as the situation developed. The intermediary role would not be to negotiate, but to act as a "guarantor". He might accompany the Libyans out of the building and travel with them to the airport. Consideration should be given to seeking a similar "guarantor" accompanying our own people out of Tripoli.

Reviewing the options in tel 97, the Prime Minister said that a break in diplomatic relations was in her view essential. She agreed that holding such a break in reserve, as envisaged in option 2(d), could lead to accusations of bad faith.

The Prime Minister asked what might be the timescale for implementing option 2(c). The Home Secretary said that this was difficult to judge since it would depend on the acceptability of the package to the Libyans - if they were agreeable it should be possible to achieve a mutual evacuation very quickly.

The Home Secretary reported that the situation appeared to be easing slightly in Tripoli and that this was encouraging. The Prime Minister agreed, though she added that the Libyans were mistaken if they thought that by being nicer to us in Tripoli they

SECRET / could

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could retain their Embassy in London.

As regards her forthcoming interview on the Today programme, the Prime Minister agreed with the Home Secretary that the less said the better. She would take the line that she had spoken to the Home Secretary, that the situation was clearly very sensitive, and that she would prefer not to comment.

DB

19 April, 1984.

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DEPARTMENT/SERIES PREM 19 PIECE/ITEM 1300 (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
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SECRET

3

MR. BARCLAY

THE LIBYAN EMBASSY INCIDENT

In the absence of Mr. Redwood I would like to raise directly with you some issues on the domestic front arising from the shooting at the Libyan 'People's Bureau'.

The four leaders of the take-over of the Bureau two months ago were apparently admitted to this country as students. Does the failure to detect that they may have had at the time of their admission an ulterior purpose in coming here reflect adversely on our immigration control procedures for people coming from Libya (and other countries such as Iran or Syria)?

There are several thousand students from Libya and other Middle East countries in the UK. Do we have adequate control and information on which to base a fundamental re-assessment of their status should that be desirable? Should we not review our whole attitude towards the entry of such students?

There are other national groups who could bring their own political conflicts into the UK, particularly the Iranians. Both those who represent the Khomeini regime and some of its opponents in left-wing Mujahadeen groups are potentially violent. Some of the latter are also developing links with extremist British organisations. It is also clear from the Lebanon conflict that the Arab terrorists of the 1980s are if anything more fanatically violent than groups like Black September a decade ago. The potentially greater threat to a greater number of lives in Britain from these sources should be taken fully into account in any subsequent policy review.

Does the Home Office devote enough resources to these questions? There is one Assistant Secretary with responsibility for policy on terrorism and public order, which has latterly included the miners' strike and the peace movement. His staff is relatively small. There is surely a case for augmenting these slender resources, or for splitting F4 division of the Home Office Police Department into two parts, with one AS responsible for public order matters and another for terrorism.

/ The media

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The media and politicians may ask whether there was any failure of intelligence or communications prior to the shooting given that indications were coming out of Libya that something extraordinary was afoot. There is I think a distinction to be made between lack of communications between departments in the twelve hours before the shooting and a longer term failure of intelligence. On the latter the police warnings following incidents presumably had some basis in intelligence reports. But the point is that in view of the relatively low public esteem in which some of our intelligence and security services are currently held, there could be a political outcry if it is felt that they failed to read the signs correctly.

These points are ones which may only be answered when the incident is resolved, but I felt they were of sufficient importance to feed into your thoughts at this stage.

PETER SHIPLEY

19 April 1984

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FROM: N F Reid (Miss)
DATE: 19 April 1984

PS
PS/Mr Luce
PS/Mr Whitney
PS/PUS
Chief Clerk
Sir J Bullard
Sir J Leahy
Lord N Gordon Lennox
Mr Egerton
Mr Adams
Mr Wright
NENAD
News Department
MAED
Consular Department
PUSD
Security Department
Protocol Department
Legal Advisers
No 10 Downing Street
Cabinet Office

LIBYA : CONSULAR SITREP 1800 19 APRIL 1984

Detainees

1. We were informed during the day that of the three Britons thought to have been detained by the Libyan authorities, Mr Smith was safe and well but had forgotten to check in with his employers.

2. Messrs Ledingham and Campbell are, we believe, still being held and we have no further news of them. We have received a telegram from Harare in the Distress series (copy in Consular Department) asking for a report on Mr Ledingham for his father who is resident in Zimbabwe. We have replied with what information we have.

Enquiries from the public

3. Following the broadcasting of our telephone number on BBC Radio and on ITN News at One (to correct an erroneous number given in this morning's press), we have received over 100 calls from members of the public about the welfare

/of

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of individuals in Libya. We have taken the names of the people concerned plus the names and telephone numbers of those enquiring with the promise to call back if we hear anything specific. We have also taken over 50 calls asking for our advice about travelling to Libya. We have taken the line that we advise against travelling at the moment. We have however asked those who may be travelling in the near future to contact us again nearer to their departure date.

Noreen F. Reid

N F Reid (Miss)
Emergency Unit

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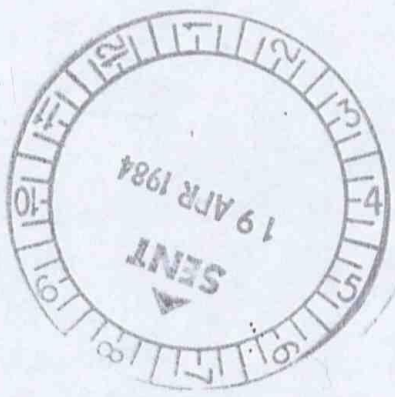
LIBYAN CRISIS ADVANCE COPIES 2387

PS/Mr Luce
PS/Lady Young
PS/MR WHITNEY
PS/PUS
LORD N GORDON LENNOX
MR WRIGHT
MR EGERTON
MR ADAMS
SIR J LEAHY
CHIEF CLERK
MR WHITE
Sir J Bullard
HD/NENAD
HD/MAED
HD/DEFENCE
HD/FUSD
HD/CONSULAR
HD/NEWS
HD/SECURITY
HD/PROTOCOL
PS/PUS
RESIDENT CLERK

HOME OFFICE
No.10 DOWNING ST
CABINET OFFICE BRIEFING ROOM
DS11 MOD
DS C, MOD
RESIDENT CLERK, MOD

MR FREELAND
MRS DENZA
} LEGAL ADVISERS

Prime Minister
19/4



[Important after action]

CONFIDENTIAL

FM TRIPOLI 191745Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 190 OF 19/4/84
AND TO FLASH LISBON (FOR PS/PM)
AND DD HONG KONG (FOR PS/SOSFCA)

FLASH

YOUR TELNO 156: ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS.

ADVANCE COPY

SUMMARY.

1. 25 MINUTES WITH TRAIKI. ATMOSPHERE FRIENDLY AND SOBER. LIBYANS WILL STUDY OUR PROPOSAL FOR A BREACH BUT ARE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT IT. PRESS NOT TO BE INFORMED.

DETAIL.

2. I SAW TRAIKI AT HIS TEMPORARY HOTEL RESIDENCE ON 19 APRIL. JERBI WAS PRESENT AND TOOK A NOTE. CAMERAMEN WERE ADMITTED BRIEFLY DURING SMALL TALK.

3. I SPOKE ACCORDING TO YOUR INSTRUCTIONS AND LEFT A PIECE OF PAPER INCORPORATING THE APPROPRIATE PARTS OF YOUR TEL NOS 156 AND 151. TRAIKI, WHO HAD LISTENED CAREFULLY WITHOUT COMMENT, ASKED WHETHER I WAS PRESENTING A PROPOSAL OR A DECISION. RATHER THAN REPEAT OUTRIGHT THAT IT WAS A PROPOSAL (PARA 3 OF YOUR TEL NO 156, WORDING WHICH I HAVE LEFT WITH HIM) I SAID ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONSIDERATIONS ARE PUSHED TO ONE SIDE BECAUSE A COUNTRY HAS TO ACT ACCORDING TO ITS PRINCIPLES. WE HAD A PROBLEM IN LONDON, NOT REALLY A PROBLEM OF ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS: WE HAD A MURDER, A MURDERER AND A MURDER WEAPON AND SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE ABOUT THEM. WE WERE DETERMINED THAT WHAT WE DID WOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AND IN PARTICULAR WITH THE VIENNA CONVENTION. WE HAD ALREADY PROPOSED ONE SOLUTION,

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BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AND IN PARTICULAR WITH THE VIENNA CONVENTION. WE HAD ALREADY PROPOSED ONE SOLUTION ENTRY BY THE POLICE INTO THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU WITH LIBYAN PERMISSION, BUT THIS HAD BEEN REJECTED. WE HAD ONLY BEEN ABLE TO FIND ONE OTHER SOLUTION WHICH ACCORDED WITH OUR PRINCIPLES, THE ONE I WAS NOW PUTTING FORWARD. HAD TRAIKI A THIRD?.

4. TRAIKI RECALLED THAT AT OUR LAST MEETING HE HAD PROPOSED SERIOUS ANGLO/LIBYAN DISCUSSIONS COVERING ALL REPEAT ALL SUBJECTS. HE HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY BEFORE THIS LATEST INCIDENT. HE WAS VERY SORRY ABOUT THE LOSS OF LIFE WHICH HE AGREED WAS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE. BUT HIS AIM REMAINED TO FIND A SOLUTION, NOT TO INCREASE TENSION.

5. HE UNDERSTOOD OUR INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES ABOUT THE MURDER BUT COULD NOT AGREE THAT THERE WAS SUCH A THING AS AN INSOLUBLE PROBLEM. HE WAS GLAD THAT I ALSO UNDERSTOOD LIBYAN DIFFICULTIES OVER ENTRY INTO THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU. HE WANTED TO FIND A SOLUTION IN A CALM ATMOSPHERE AWAY FROM PUBLICITY HE COULD ASSURE US THAT HE WOULD NOT ALLOW THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU TO BE USED CONTRARY TO BRITISH LAW.

6. AFTER SOME BRIEF AND INCONCLUSIVE EXCHANGES ON THE WELL WORN TOPICS OF LIBYAN OPPOSITION IN BRITAIN AND THE RIGHTS AND WRONGS OF DEMONSTRATIONS, WE AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST IF THE LIBYAN SIDE NOW CONSIDERED CAREFULLY WHAT I HAD SAID. WE DISCUSSED PRESS HANDLING (I HAD NOT THEN SEEN YOUR TELNO 158 BUT HAD A REPORT OF NIXON'S TELECON WITH MARSHALL). WE AGREED THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD SAY NO MORE THAN THAT THE MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE IN A GOOD ATMOSPHERE AND THAT BOTH SIDES WERE CONTINUING TO LOOK FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. I PRESSED FOR AN EARLY REPLY, AND SAID WE WOULD LET HIM KNOW IF WE HAD TO GO BEYOND THE AGREED LINE.

7. I REALISE THAT THIS REPORT WILL MAKE STRANGE READING SET BESIDE THE BARE FACED LIES QADHAFI TOLD AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, OF WHICH I DO NOT YET HAVE FULL DETAILS. IT IS TEMPTING TO CONCLUDE THAT TRAIKI IS MERELY A HYPOCRITE. ARABISTS ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE PROBLEM AND WILL AGREE THAT THINGS ARE NOT SO SIMPLE. BUT WHETHER TRAIKI'S OLIVE BRANCH TURNS OUT TO BE SUBSTANTIAL IS SOMETHING WE COULD ONLY FIND OUT BY TRYING TO GRASP IT, SHOULD WE WISH TO DO SO. ACCORDING TO MY GREEK COLLEAGUE, TRAIKI REPORTED BACK TO QADHAFI'S GROUP AT THE BARRACKS AFTER OUR FIRST MEETING AND WAS ACCUSED OF TREACHERY. YET HE FELT ABLE TO TAKE AN EQUALLY CONCILIATORY LINE AGAIN.

MILES

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FROM: D F Richmond
Emergency Unit

DATE: 19 April 1984

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Long

LIBYA: SITREP 0900 19 APRIL

Diplomatic Activity

1. Fitouri, interim head of Libyan People's Bureau (LPB), saw Mr Luce at the FCO at 1720 on 18 April. Mr Luce reiterated outrage at events on 17 April; repeated demands that those inside the LPB should come out and that police should be allowed to search for murder weapon; and explained that our objective was an early and peaceful solution and avoidance of escalation. No reply from Libyan Government so far, but informal contacts indicate Libyans will continue to reject demands and deny all guilt.

2. Consideration now being given to form and timing in break of relations and expulsion of all those inside LPB. Final decision still to be taken.

3. At UN Libyans have circulated letter giving their own mendacious version of events. UK Permanent Representative has issued a rebuttal.

PLB in London

4. No developments. No sign of occupants leaving.

British Embassy in Tripoli

5. Embassy staff allowed to leave building during afternoon of 18 April. H M Ambassador still not allowed access to Traiki (Libyan equivalent of Foreign Minister).

Consular

6. Of four British subjects known to have been detained by Libyan authorities, one was released during afternoon of 18 April. Those still held are Mr Campbell of Poole Intardrill, Mr Ledingham of British Caledonian and Mr Smith (firm not yet identified).

D. F. Richmond

D F Richmond
Emergency Unit

19 April 1984

/cc...

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cc:

PS
PS/Mr Luce
PS/Mr Whitney
PS/PUS
Chief Clerk
Sir J Bullard
Sir J Leahy
Lord N Gordon Lennox
Mr Egerton
Mr Adams
Mr Wright
NENAD
News Department
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No 10 Downing Street
Cabinet Office

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FROM: J A Howlett
Emergency Unit

DATE: 19 April 1984

PS
PS/Mr Luce
PS/Mr Whitney
PS/PUS
Chief Clerk
Sir J Bullard
Sir J Leahy
Lord N Gordon Lennox
Mr Egerton
Mr Adams
Mr Wright
Mr Long, NENAD
Mr Atkinson, Consular Dept
Mr Goulden, News Dept
Mr Gray, MAED
No 10 Downing Street
Cabinet Office

LIBYA: BRITISH DETAINEES
SITREP: 0600 19 APRIL 1984

1. Mr Miles was called to the FLB at 1730 local time on 18 April. He gave Jerbi details of four British citizens whom the Embassy suspected had been detained (Messrs Beckford, Campbell, Ledingham and Leslie Smith) and pressed for clarification and the release of the detainees. We have no details of Mr Smith, whose name has been added to the list of three originally reported by Mr Miles on the evening of 17 April.

2. Early on the evening of 18 April News Department began confirming that we had received reports of three detentions but did not release the names. British Caledonian in the meantime published the name of their man, thus freeing News Department to confirm Mr Ledingham as one of those still detained.

3. The Emergency Unit was informed at 2035 on 18 April that Mr Beckford was no longer being held and had returned to his home in Tripoli.

4. The Embassy have no information of any other detainees apart from Messrs Campbell, Ledingham and Smith.

J A Howlett

J A Howlett

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TO FLASH FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 152 OF 19 APRIL 1984
INFO FLASH HONG KONG

YOUR TEL NO 97 : ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS.
FOLLOWING FROM PS TO PRIME MINISTER.

AS THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE HOME SECRETARY ON THE TELEPHONE EARLIER TODAY, SHE BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD FOLLOW THE COURSE OF ACTION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2(C) OF THE TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE, INCLUDING A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO AGREES WITH THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY (HONG KONG TELEGRAM NO. 1063) THAT AS PART OF THE PACKAGE WE SHOULD SEEK LIBYAN AGREEMENT TO ALLOW OUR PEOPLE TO LEAVE TRIPOLI UNMOLESTED.

BYATT

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FM HONG KONG 190120Z APR 84
TO F L A S H FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1063 OF 19 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE LISBON (FOR PS/PM)

FOLLOWING FOR PS/HOME SECRETARY AND PS/MR LUCE FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY.

YOUR TELNO 97 TO LISBON: ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS.

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS SEEN THE TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE AND AGREES WITH THE HOME SECRETARY AND MR LUCE THAT ON BALANCE WE SHOULD ACCEPT THE [illegible] (C). HE BELIEVES THAT THE MOST DIFFICULT POINT PUBLICLY WILL BE THE DECISION NOT TO PROSECUTE ANY OF THE NON-DIPLOMATIC LIBYANS PRESENT IN THE BUILDING AT THE TIME OF THE SHOOTING. HE RECALLS THAT THE LEILA KHALED CASE RAISED SOME SIMILAR CONSIDERATIONS: HE BELIEVES THAT THE LAW OFFICERS TOOK THE VIEW THEN THAT QUITE APART FROM THE QUESTION OF CONVENIENCE, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO (NO) GROUNDS TO PROSECUTE. IT MAY BE WORTH LOOKING AGAIN AT THE LEILA KHALED CASE IN THIS CONTEXT.

2. THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS, AS NO DOUBT ALL ARE AT YOUR END, VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS STAFF IN TRIPOLI. THIS ASPECT IS NOT COVERED IN THE TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE. [illegible] THAT WE SHOULD SEEK, AS PART OF THE PACKAGE FOR [illegible] (C) - I.E. INCLUDING A BREAK IN RELATIONS - LIBYA [illegible] TO ALLOW OUR PEOPLE TO LEAVE THE LIBYAN [illegible].

YOUDE

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Prime Minister has seen. 28/4

As of about midday today the situation was as follows.

There is little fresh news from Tripoli. But the impression in London is that the situation there is not particularly tense. It still looks as though women and children may be allowed to leave the Embassy but the Ambassador will obviously have to judge the moment for this. The Ghanaian Ambassador in Tripoli has offered to mediate - no response has yet been given.

Similarly, there have been no significant new developments at the Libyan Embassy in London. We are still awaiting a response from Fitouri as to what the people inside the Embassy intend to do.

Cobra were agreed this morning that at some stage we should break diplomatic relations. But the question of timing is still being discussed.

The FCO tend to favour an early break in relations accompanied by an agreed framework for the departure of our people from Libya.

Cobra also discussed how we should treat the non-diplomats in the Libyan Embassy. The Libyans will, of course, make no distinction between their diplomats and non-diplomats. The FCO take the view that the Libyans are most unlikely to agree to surrender anyone in that Embassy - they also argue that the possibility of successful legal action being taken against anyone there is remote.

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But the Home Secretary is taking a rather different view to the FCO. He is receiving advice from the police that the ending of diplomatic relations would be regarded by the people in the Libyan Embassy as a hostile act and an escalation of the situation, presaging forceful action. The police tactic is that of a classic siege, aiming to wear down the confidence of the Libyans.

The Home Secretary is also inclined to think that we should distinguish between the diplomats and non-diplomats in the Libyan Embassy, presumably only allowing the diplomats to leave, at least in the initial stage.

Andrew asked me how fastidious you were about whether we should attempt to bring one or more people to trial. I said that I did not think you could reasonably be asked to take a view when we were so far from the scene and there were divided views in London. I asked that we should receive a telegram later in the day, authorised by the Home Secretary and Richard Luce, containing the latest advice on the problem.

You should also know that no-one in London - neither the Home Secretary, Richard Luce nor Anthony Acland - see a case for your returning early. They detect absoutely no criticism of your absence. But more seriously, they fear that if you curtailed the visit, particularly given the meal which the media would make of this, a wrong signal could be sent to the Libyans. We could give an impression that some decisive action was about to be taken and this impression might be given at just the wrong time in the various negotiations that are going on. I must say that I think that this is wise advice.

JOHN COLES A.J.C. 18.4.84

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FM BONN 180845Z APR 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 386 OF 18 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE TRIPOLI

TRIPOLI TELNO 157: PROPOSED VISIT BY GENSCHER TO LIBYA

1. NEWS OF THIS VISIT IS REPORTED IN THE GERMAN MEDIA TODAY, 18 APRIL. BUT THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT TELL US THIS IS THE RESULT OF A LEAK, NOT AN ANNOUNCEMENT. THEY HAVE PUT BACK THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE LIGHT OF YESTERDAY'S SHOCKING EVENTS OUTSIDE THE LIBYAN PEOPLES BUREAU IN LONDON, AND WILL DISCUSS WITH GENSCHER ON HIS RETURN FROM ARGENTINA TOMORROW WHETHER THE VISIT SHOULD PROCEED AT ALL.

2. IN THE MEANTIME THEY WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO BE KEPT AS FULLY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE BACKGROUND TO YESTERDAY'S SHOOTING.

3. THE LONDON SHOOTING IS REPORTED ON THE FRONT PAGES OF MOST GERMAN PAPERS TODAY. THE NEWS WAS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR THERE TO BE MUCH COMMENT: BUT BONHORST IN GENERAL ANZEIGER, UNDER THE HEADING ''BRAZEN MURDER'', REMARKS THAT LONDON IS NOT THE ONLY CAPITAL TO SUFFER FROM LIBYAN TERRORISM, AND IT WOULD BE WORTH THE OTHER EC COUNTRIES STANDING UP TO GADHAFI TOGETHER.

TAYLOR

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FM FCO 180915Z APR 84
TO FLASH LISBON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 95 OF 18 APRIL
AND TO FLASH HONG KONG
INFO FLASH TRIPOLI

FOR PRIME MINISTER/SECRETARY OF STATE FROM MINISTER OF STATE

1. I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE DISCRETION WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN ME TO PROCEED AS PROPOSED UNDER MY EARLIER RECOMMENDATION.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN NO (NO) SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS OVERNIGHT. CONTACTS ARE CONTINUING BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU HERE. THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI REMAINS SURROUNDED BUT THE AMBASSADOR HAS MADE SOME CONTACTS WITH THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES WITH THE HELP OF THE KUWAITI AMBASSADOR, AND SOME OF THE WOMEN AT PRESENT IN THE EMBASSY MAY BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE IF THEY SO WISH.

3. I HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH LEON BRITTAN THE TIMING OF A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE AND THE POLICE ARE CONCERNED THAT AN EARLY BREAK WILL BE INTERPRETED BY THE LIBYANS AS AN ESCALATION OF THE SITUATION RATHER THAN THE REVERSE AND MAY LEAD THEM TO SUSPECT THAT WE ARE CONTEMPLATING SOME FORCEFUL ACTION AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU PREMISES HERE. I AM THEREFORE CONSIDERING FURTHER THE TIMING AND PRESENTATION.

4. I SHALL REPORT AGAIN LATER TODAY.

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INFO ALL COREU IMMEDIAT DESKBY 1816ØØZ
CPE/LON 125 Ø4.18.84 13.53HRS

CONFIDENTIEL
DISTRIBUTION GENERALE
SUBJECT: LIBYA

1. PARTNERS WILL BE AWARE OF THE INCIDENT AT THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU IN LONDON ON 17 APRIL AND OF THE SITUATION WHICH HAS SUBSEQUENTLY DEVELOPED.

2. THE UK HOPES THAT IN ANY PUBLIC COMMENT, AND IN PRIVATE CONTACTS WITH THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES AS APPROPRIATE, PARTNERS WILL REFLECT THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE BY BRITISH MINISTERIAL SPOKESMEN:-

(A) THE MURDER OF A 25 YEAR OLD POLICEWOMAN WAS A BARBAROUS OUTRAGE

(B) THE INCIDENT WAS A GROSS ABUSE OF DIPLOMATIC PREMISES

(C) THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS WORKING FOR AN EARLY AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH DIPLOMATIC USAGE AND THE ACCEPTED NORMS ON INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOUR.

3. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS TODAY CONSIDERING THE NEXT STEPS. IT MAY WISH TO SEEK THE SUPPORT OF PARTNERS FOR DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN RELATION TO LIBYA, POSSIBLY DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAY. MEANWHILE THE UK APPRECIATES THE EXPRESSIONS OF SOLIDARITY WHICH HAVE REACHED IT FROM SEVERAL PARTNERS.

FIN DE TEXTE

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FM TRIPOLI 181650Z
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 182 OF 18/4/84

ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. THE POLICE INFORMED US AT 17.30 LOCAL THAT ALL STAFF ARE NOW FREE TO MOVE IN TRIPOLI (THOUGH NOT APPARENTLY OUTSIDE). THOSE WHO WISHED TO LEAVE HAVE DONE SO. AT THE SAME TIME I WAS CALLED TO THE FLB TO BE GIVEN TWO POINTS BY JERBI:

A. THE DECISION ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT (WHICH CURIOUSLY THE POLICE OFFICER HAD SPECIFICALLY TOLD US WAS A DECISION OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, NOT OF THE FLB).
B. THE LIBYANS INSISTED THAT WE SHOULD NOW HAND OVER THOSE LIBYAN CRIMINALS ON WHOM INFORMATION HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THROUGH INTERPOL. I INTERRUPTED TO SAY THAT INTERPOL GIVES INFORMATION TO POLICE FORCES, NOT TO GOVERNMENTS, AND THAT I HAD REPEATEDLY REQUESTED A VARIETY OF LIBYAN OFFICIALS TO GIVE ME THIS INFORMATION, BUT IT HAD NEVER BEEN FORTHCOMING. I SAID COLONEL BILQASIM WOULD CONFIRM WHAT I SAID AND HAD PROMISED US DETAILED INFORMATION FROM HIS FILES, BUT NEVER GIVEN US ANY. I SAID (MAY THE LORD FORGIVE ME) THAT THE WHOLE PICTURE WOULD BE RADICALLY CHANGED IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE LIBYANS COULD GIVE US PROPER DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT LIBYANS BREACHING OUR LAWS ABOUT ARMS. JERBI TOOK NOTES FURIOUSLY.
2. I THEN MADE THREE POINTS:
A. MUR LUCE WOULD BE MEETING FITURI TODAY. I EXPLAINED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ABSENCE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND AGAIN PRESSED TO SEE TRAIKI, WHO IS ''OUT OF THE OFFICE''.
B. I GAVE DETAILS OF FOUR BRITISH SUBJECTS WHO WE SUSPECT HAVE BEEN DETAINED (BECKFORD, CAMPBELL, LESLIE SMITH AND LEDINGHAM). I PRESSED FOR CLARIFICATION AND RELEASE.
C. I ASKED AS PART OF THE INFORMATION PROCESS THAT FITURI SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO HELP US SORT OUT THE STATUS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU.
3. AS I LEFT, I MENTIONED THAT WE HAVE BEEN REFUSING ANY PRESS COMMENT, DESPITE A MYRIAD OF ENQUIRIES. I SAID THE TONE OF THE LIBYAN MEDIA SEEMED TO HAVE MODERATED AND SUGGESTED THIS WAS ANOTHER AREA FOR NORMALISATION.

MILES

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FM TRIPOLI 181530Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 181 OF 18/4/84

ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS
FROM COOLING

AS AMBASSADOR WAS LEAVING AFTER TELECONFERENCE WITH SIR JOHN LEAHY, HE WAS INFORMED THAT ALL STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE FREE TO LEAVE AND RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. THE HOMES WILL BE ''GUARDED''. LOCALLY ENGAGED LADIES AND THE MARSHALL FAMILY ARE PREPARING TO LEAVE. FRANK MARSHALL WILL PHONE IN BUT STAY AT HOME AS SOON AS WE HAVE ESTABLISHED CONTACT. HE WILL BE A USEFUL MAN TO HAVE ON THE OUTSIDE. WE WILL ARRANGE A ROSTER FOR DUTY AND SLEEPING TO ENSURE THAT WE REMAIN OPERATIONAL THROUGH THE NIGHT. WE WILL DISCUSS THESE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE AMBASSADOR WHEN HE RETURNS.

MILES

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FM TRIPOLI 181225Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 18Ø OF 18/4/84

MY TELNO 179: ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS.

1. AFTER A BRIEF VISIT TO MY FAMILY AT HOME (ALL WELL) I SAW JERBI AT THE PBFL. HE IS IN FACT HEAD OF THE AMERICAS DEPARTMENT AND I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HE HAS BEEN MADE THE MAIN SPOKESMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THIS BUSINESS.

2. I SPOKE IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY TELNO 176 AND JERBI TOOK A DETAILED NOTE. I LAID IT ON VERY THICK, ADDING A GOOD DEAL OFF THE RECORD ABOUT THE BETRAYAL OF ARAB TRADITIONS OF HOSPITALITY AND TREATMENT OF FAMILIES AND I HAVE RARELY SEEN AN OFFICIAL LOOK SO UNHAPPY. BUT HE HAD NOT MUCH TO GIVE ME. HE SAID THAT IT WAS AGREED THAT ALL THE LADIES IN THE EMBASSY SHOULD RETURN HOME AND THAT I SHOULD HAVE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT TO MY HOUSE. I SAID THIS WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH ON GROUNDS OF HUMANITY, RECIPROCITY AND POLITICS. I SAID THAT PIGOTT (WHO ACCOMPANIED ME) FOR EXAMPLE HAD A WIFE WHO DOES NOT DRIVE AND TWO SMALL CHILDREN IN A DISTANT PART OF THE TOWN. MARSHALL MUST BE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN. JERBI SQUIRMED AND MADE NOTES.

3. HIS ONLY SUPPLEMENTARY ENQUIRIES WERE:

(A) THE PB WERE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE ONLY WITH THE POLICE: THEY NO LONGER HAD ACCESS TO THE FCO (WHICH I DENIED).

(B) THE LIBYAN SCHOOL. HE SAYS POLICE HAVE ENTERED, HAD REMAINED THERE AND HAVE MISTREATED STUDENTS.

(C) ALTHOUGH HE SEEMED TO GRANT MY POINT THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE PB WERE FREE TO LEAVE, HE SAID THAT THERE WAS AN OPPRESSIVE POLICE PRESENCE AND POLICE HAD, FOR EXAMPLE, TRIED TO ENTER DIPLOMATS' HOMES. IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THE POLICE PRESENCE WERE LIFTED BOTH IN LONDON AND IN TRIPOLI AND WE COULD GET BACK TO NORMAL WORK. (INCIDENTALLY, THIS EMBASSY IS SURROUNDED BY UNIFORMED POLICE, NOT LIBYAN TROOPS, AND THE POLICE HAVE BEHAVED IMPECCABLY.) I SAID I WAS NOT ASKING FOR REMOVAL OF POLICE FROM THIS EMBASSY,WHICH INDEED I REQUESTED, BUT FOR OUR IMPRISONMENT TO END.

4. ON YOUR MAIN REQUIREMENT, PERMISSION FOR THE POLICE TO ENTER THE PB, HE SAID THAT THE LIBYAN POSITION WAS UNCHANGED: REFUSAL. I AGAIN DEMANDED TO SEE TRAIKI, SAYING THAT IT WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD IN LONDON IF I WERE ONLY SEEN AT OFFICIAL LEVEL.

5. THE KUWAITI CHARGE, AS HELPFUL AS HIS AMBASSADOR ,HAS SPOKEN AGAIN TO TRAIKI AND AGAIN CONFIRMS THAT TRAIKI AGREES TO SEE ME.

MILES

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PRIORITY | 1 | 2 | NONE

FOLIS 21/18

ZZ LISBON

GRS 8Ø

CONFIDENTIAL
FM TRIPOLI 181Ø45Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 179 OF 18/4/84
AND TO DSO HSP

YOUR UNNUMBERED TEL OF 18Ø951Z APRIL

FOR LONG FROM COOLING

1. AMBASSADOR HAS JUST LEFT FOR APPOINTMENT WITH ACTING HEAD OF EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT AT PBFL. AFTER SEEING JERBI, HE IS INTENDING TO SEE TRAIKI. HOWEVER, JERBI HAS BEEN STALLING ON THIS LATTER APPOINTMENT.
2. WE WILL INFORM YOU WHEN THE AMBASSADOR RETURNS AND CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS FOR TELECONFERENCE.

MILES

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FOLIS Ø28 / 18

OO LISBON
GRS 86

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED
FM TRIPOLI 181Ø2ØZ APR
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 178 OF 18/4/84

ANGLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS AND THE MEDIA.

1. BBC RADIO HAVE TELEPHONED STATING THAT ROBERTS OF NEWS DEPARTMENT HAS AUTHORISED ME TO GIVE A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW. ON BALANCE, I WOULD PREFER TO ADHERE TO MY EARLIER INSTRUCTIONS, CONVEYED DURING MY EVENING TELECONFERENCE WITH SIR JOHN LEAHY YESTERDAY, TO STONEWALL THE MEDIA. GRATEFUL YOUR CONFIRMATION THAT I MAY CONTINUE REFERRING CALLERS BACK TO NEWS DEPARTMENT.

MILES

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[redacted]/LIS Ø13/18

ZZ LISBON

GRS 8Ø

CONFIDENTIAL
FM TRIPOLI 18Ø827Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 177 OF 18/4/84
AND TO IMMEDIATE ACCRA, KUWAIT

Received in Registry
18 APR 1984
Desk Officer | Registry
INDEX | PA | ACTION
PRIORITY | 1 | 2 | NONE

MY TELNO 176. ANGLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS.

1. GHANAIAN AMBASSADOR HAS OFFERED TO MEDIATE. I HAVE EXPLAINED THAT I HOPE TO SEE TRAIKI SHORTLY, BUT SAID I WOULD BEAR HIM IN MIND (ESPECIALLY AS KUWAITI AMBASSADOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER ARE LEAVING TOGETHER FOR KUWAIT).

2. ASMAH'S STANDING HERE IS SUCH THAT HIS OFFER IS NOT TO BE SNEEZED AT.

MILES

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ZZ LISBON

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CONFIDENTIAL
FM TRIPOLI 180808Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 176 OF 18/4/84
INFO IMMEDIATE KUWAIT

MY TELNO 175: ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS

MIPT

AR 18/4
h.a.

1. WE TOO WISH TO AVOID ESCALATION. THE LIBYAN ACTIONS HAVE BEEN BADLY RECEIVED IN BRITAIN. ONE WOMAN POLICE CONSTABLE HAS BEEN KILLED AND 10 INJURED ARE IN HOSPITAL.

2. IN REPLY TO POINTS MADE TO ME ON THE TELEPHONE ON 17 APRIL:
A. LIFTING THE SEIGE. EVERYONE IN THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU IN LONDON IS FREE TO LEAVE THE BUILDING. THOSE WITH DIPLOMATIC STATUS ARE ALLOWED TO GO HOME. FITURI HAS ALREADY BEEN IN AND OUT SEVERAL TIMES AND HAS BEEN HOME.
B. RELEASE OF SECRETARY AND MEMBERS OF THE PB. FITURI WAS NEVER DETAINED. SUDANI HAS BEEN RELEASED. A NUMBER OF OTHER LIBYANS ARRESTED HAVE BEEN RELEASED. WE REQUEST RELEASE OF BRITISH SUBJECTS DETAINED IN LIBYA.
C. FOOD AND DRINK. FOOD AND DRINK HAVE NOT BEEN REFUSED TO THE PB AT ANY TIME. FITURI COLLECTED FOOD FROM HIS HOME THIS MORNING.
3. I REPEAT THREE REQUESTS MADE YESTERDAY:
A. PERMISSION FOR THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES TO ENTER THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE MURDERER AND TAKE POSSESSION OF WEAPONS. THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN PUT DIRECT TO FITURI AND WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF HE COULD BE GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO AGREE.
B. PERMISSION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO LEAVE THIS EMBASSY AND RETURN HOME AT ONCE. AT THE VERY LEAST I REQUEST THAT THIS EMBASSY SHOULD HAVE RECIPROCAL TREATMENT IN HUMANITARIAN MATTERS.
C. A MEETING WITH DR TRAIKI IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR FRIENDLY MEETING ON 17 APRIL.

MILES

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ZZ LISBON

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18 APR 1984
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PRIORITY | 1 | 2 | NONE

CONFIDENTIAL
FM TRIPOLI 180800Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 175 OF 18/4/84
INFO IMMEDIATE KUWAIT

MY TELNO 171: ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. I HAVE PREPARED A LETTER TO TRAIKI (TEXT IN MIFT) WHICH I HOPE TO DELIVER PERSONALLY OR USE AS A SPEAKING NOTE. I HAD PREVIOUSLY TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO HAVE THE LETTER COLLECTED BY THE FLB BUT THERE IS MUCH SHUFFLING OF RESPONSIBILITY AMONG THOSE OFFICIALS I HAVE SPOKEN TO, EITHER BECAUSE OF DIVIDED COUNSELS OR BECAUSE THEY ARE WAITING FOR TRAIKI.
2. THE KUWAITI AMBASSADOR TELEPHONED TO GIVE ME HIS MINISTER'S BEST WISHES AND TO SAY THAT TRAIKI HAS AGREED TO RELEASE THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND TO SEE ME AS SOON AS HE GETS BACK FROM THE AIRPORT FAREWELL. THE KUWAITIS HAVE URGED THE LIBYANS TO COOL THE PROBLEM AND URGE US TO DO THE SAME.
3. NOT ALL THE LADIES WILL IN FACT WISH TO LEAVE SEMICOLON THE MILLER, HAMILTON AND SARGON FLATS ARE IN THE EMBASSY AND WE HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THEIR HOSPITALITY. MISS WEEKES, MISS NESS AND MISS GILLMORE WILL STAY IN THE EMBASSY FOR THE PRESENT, BUT I SHALL OF COURSE HOPE TO SECURE MORE GENERAL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT VERY SOON.
4. SEE MIFT.

MILES

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FM TRIPOLI 18Ø73ØZ APR
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 174 OF 18 /4/84

A. J. C. 18/4

p.a.

TELEPRINTER CONVERSATION LEAHY/MILES OF 17 APRIL: INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONES.

1. WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL CALLS (INCLUDING MANY FROM THE PRESS) BUT WE CANNOT RING OUT ABROAD FROM THE EMBASSY. IT APPEARS THAT SOME AT LEAST OF OUR HOME TELEPHONES ARE NOT BLOCKED. INTERNAL CALLS ARE MAINLY NORMAL.

MILES

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FOLIS 008/18
ZZ LISBON

GRS 200

CONFIDENTIAL
FM TRIPOLI 180550Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 171 OF 18/4/84
AND TO FLASH KUWAIT.

YOUR UNNUMBERED TEL OF 180203Z APR: ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS.

1. I SPOKE TO THE KUWAITI AMBASSADOR AT 180445Z. HE WILL BE WITH HIS FOREIGN MINISTER AND TRAIKI UP TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S DEPARTURE TIME AROUND 0800Z. I ASKED HIM TO CONVEY TWO POINTS TO TRAIKI:

A) I SENT TRAIKI TWO PERSONAL MESSAGES YESTERDAY WHICH I SUSPECT WERE WITHELD BY HIS STAFF. DID THEY REACH HIM?

B) AS A MINIMUM I WANT RECIPROCAL TREATMENT FOR MY EMBASSY IN HUMANITARIAN MATTERS. THE SEIGE OF THE PB IN LONDON HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY LIFTED BUT I HAVE ELEVEN WOMEN AND TWO CHILDREN COOPED UP IN HERE.

2. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD HELP.

HE SAID THAT TRAIKI HAD ALREADY ASKED HIS MINISTER TO HELP SOLVE THE CRISIS, BUT COULD SAY NO MORE OVER AN OPEN LINE. LATER HE RANG BACK TO ASK FOR THE SUBSTANCE OF MY MESSAGES TO TRAIKI FOR HIS MINISTER'S INFORMATION. I SAID THEY WERE PERMISSION FOR BRITISH AUTHORITIES TO ENTER THE PB AND RECOVER THE MACHINE GUN, PERMISSION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO LEAVE THIS EMBASSY AT ONCE AND A MEETING WITH TRAIKI IN THE SPIRIT OF MY FRIENDLY MEETING YESTERDAY. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS APPROACHING HIM WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AND HE SAID THE KUWAITI EMBASSY WOULD BE CONTACTING YOU TODAY.

MILES

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FOLIS 030 / 18

18 APR 1984

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ZZ LISBON (FOR PM'S PARTY)
GRS 110
CONFIDENTIAL
FM DAMASCUS 181335Z APR 84
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 195 OF 18 APRIL

TELECON LUCAS/RICHMOND: LIBYA

1. JALLOUD HAS BEEN THERE ON A VISIT AND WE BELIEVE MAY NOT HAVE LEFT YET. IF WE ARE TO ASK THE SYRIANS TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICES, THERE WOULD ACCORDINGLY BE ADVANTAGE IN OUR DOING SO URGENTLY.

2. I DO NOT HOLD OUT GREAT HOPE OF OUR PERSUADING THE SYRIANS TO DO MUCH, OR OF THEIR PERSUADING THE LIBYANS, BUT IN THE UNPRECEDENTED CIRCUMSTANCES IT SEEMS WORTH TRYING ANYTHING.

3. IF YOU DECIDE TO INSTRUCT ME TO ACT, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO KNOW THE SPECIFIC TERMS IN WHICH YOU WOULD WISH THE SYRIANS TO SPEAK TO THE LIBYANS.

LUCAS

NNNN

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cc Master

SECRET

SUBJECT

2

RECORD OF A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER IN LISBON AND THE HOME SECRETARY IN LONDON, 1900, 18 APRIL

Relations with Libya

The Home Secretary gave an account of the situation. There had been no dramatic developments during the day, but it had become clear that the Libyans in the Peoples Bureau seen by Mr. Luce and police had no authority at all to negotiate. Our Ambassador in Tripoli was still trying, so far unsuccessfully, to see Traiki - effectively the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Our Ambassador was maintaining the line developed yesterday, i.e. that there would be no assault on the Peoples Bureau; that staff at the Peoples Bureau should come out; that the position of those with diplomatic immunity would be respected; and that the police wished to make a search of the building.

The Home Secretary said the Libyans appeared to be playing for time, and seemed to be seeking to return relations to the status quo ante. Our Embassy staff had been told they could leave and return to their homes where they would be "guarded". Staff were now dispersing. The Libyans had also raised the question of using an intermediary.

The Home Secretary set out the arguments that had been advanced for and against an early announcement of the ending of diplomatic relations. The Prime Minister argued that where there was a position which was quiet and still stable, one had to justify action and be certain that it would lead to a better position. She was loathe to stir up matters without first having established a balance sheet of advantages and disadvantages.

The Prime Minister asked who had diplomatic immunity and who not. The Home Secretary said the Libyans claimed that all those in the building had diplomatic immunity, though they had

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not given names. It was doubtful whether this claim was justified. Although there were thought to be 40 people inside, compared with 56 names on the diplomatic list, it was improbable that all 40 were recognised by the Foreign Office. There was a possibility that false documents could be created.

The Home Secretary outlined the way in which the Foreign Office thought the ending of diplomatic relations could be presented. The aim was to show this not as a confrontational act, but as a way of de-escalating tension and resolving the issue.

The Home Secretary said many people would find it outrageous if Libyans not having diplomatic immunity were allowed to go free. The Prime Minister wondered whether it would not have been better to put all the Libyan staff on an aircraft to Libya. She asked what evidence we would have against particular individuals. They agreed that it was unlikely that adequate evidence could be secured, and that the culprit could be identified. The Prime Minister said that if the Libyans were sent home, it would be important to ensure that no British staff were left behind who could be used as a lever against us. She wondered whether a solution could be devised, short of breaking off diplomatic relations, which embodied effectively exchanging the two Embassy staffs. Could this be described as a recall of our Ambassador and his staff, or a move to a reduced level of diplomatic representation? A small token staff could be left behind, or a special interest section created in another Embassy.

The Home Secretary asked whether repatriating the Libyan staff including the perpetrator of the murder could be defended. The Prime Minister thought it could, provided British staff were successfully repatriated too.

The Prime Minister asked the Home Secretary, in consultation with Mr. Luce, to send a telegram later tonight analysing the possibilities for mutual repatriation of staff in a context

/ other

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other than the severing of diplomatic relations. (It was recognised that this would have to follow eventually). The telegram should discuss the legal background, the logistics of achieving this, including the case for calling in an intermediary.

In subsequent discussion with the Prime Minister's party, I established that this telegram should, if possible, arrive around 11.00 p.m. The Prime Minister would consider it overnight, and give her reactions in the morning.

The Prime Minister said she was appearing on The Today Programme at 7.30 in the morning. She asked the Home Secretary to phone her at 7.00 a.m. The purpose of this call would be to brief her on the line to take, rather than to discuss the substantive issues. The Prime Minister might need time after 7.30 a.m. to consider this.

18 April 1984

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17

ZZ LISBON

GRS 437
SECRET
FM FCO 181630Z APRIL 84
TO FLASH TRIPOLI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 151 OF 18 APRIL
AND TO HONG KONG (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY),
LISBON (FOR PS/PM)
FROM PRIVATE OFFICE
MIPT: LIBYAN CRISIS

Apl 19/4.
h.a.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DRAFT SPEAKING NOTE FOR USE IN THE EVENT THAT A DECISION TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS CONFIRMED.

2. YOU SHOULD INFORM THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES IMMEDIATELY THAT WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED RECENT EVENTS AND COME TO CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS. WE HAVE CLEARLY REACHED A DANGEROUS STALEMATE AND MUST FIND A WAY OF RESOLVING IT PEACEFULLY. WE CANNOT OVERLOOK THE SHOOTING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE INCLUDING THE KILLING OF A POLICEWOMAN. COMING ON TOP OF OTHER RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU THIS HAS CREATED A GREAT SENSE OF OUTRAGE IN BRITAIN AND LED TO A SERIOUS HEIGHTENING OF TENSION. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY WAY OF REGULARISING THE POSITION IN A MANNER WHICH WILL NOT LEAD TO FURTHER FRICTION AND CONFRONTATION IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IS TO CEASE HAVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT ALL FOR THE TIME BEING.

4. THE RECENT INCIDENTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT MEMBERS OF THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU HAVE CONDUCTED THEMSELVES IN A MANNER WHICH IS IN BREACH OF BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ARE THEMSELVES CONCERNED TO FOLLOW SCRUPULOUSLY THE PROVISIONS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION, IN PARTICULAR THOSE COVERING THE INVIOLABILITY AND IMMUNITY OF DULY ACCREDITED MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND THE INVIOLABILITY OF DIPLOMATIC PREMISES, AND WILL EXPECT THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES AND CITIZENS TO DO THE SAME. IN PARTICULAR THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES HAVE NO (NO) INTENTION TO MAKE FORCIBLE ENTRY INTO THE LPB, THOUGH THEY MAINTAIN THEIR REQUEST TO CONDUCT AN APPROPRIATE SEARCH OF THE PREMISES FOR FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES IN COOPERATION WITH ACCREDITED LIBYAN REPRESENTATIVES.

5. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES SHOULD THEREFORE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO CLOSE THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU IN LONDON AND INSTRUCT ALL ITS MEMBERS TO LEAVE THE UNITED KINGDOM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND IN ANY CASE NOT LATER THAN MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY 29 APRIL. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ARE MAKING SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS TO CLOSE THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI AND HAVE INSTRUCTED THE STAFF OF THE MISSION TO LEAVE BY THE SAME DATE. A FURTHER COMMUNICATION WILL BE MADE IN DUE COURSE ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROTECTING POWER. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL BE READY TO ACCORD THE NORMAL FACILITIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIBYAN INTERESTS TO AN ACCEPTABLE THIRD STATE, IN THE EVENT THAT THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES WISH SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT.

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ZZ LISBON

GRS 198
SECRET
FM FCO 181615Z APRIL 84
TO FLASH TRIPOLI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 15∅ OF 18 APRIL
AND TO HONG KONG (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY), LISBON (FOR PS/PM)
FROM PRIVATE OFFICE
LIBYAN CRISIS

1. EVENTS HERE SEEM TO BE LEADING TOWARDS A DECISION TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LIBYA. WE ARE NOT (NOT) YET AT THE POINT OF TAKING A FINAL DECISION IN THIS SENSE, AND THE MODALITIES AND TIMING AND OTHER DETAILS REMAIN TO BE AGREED. BUT IT MAY BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO HAVE IN ADVANCE THE LATEST DRAFT TEXT OF THE COMMUNICATION TO THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES WHICH WE SHOULD ASK YOU TO DELIVER ONCE THE FINAL DECISION WAS TAKEN. IT IS STILL SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT AND WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COMMENTS ON IT IF YOU HAVE ANY.

2. A MATTER OF PARTICULAR CONCERN WILL BE WHAT ADVICE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY IN LIBYA IF A DECISION IS TAKEN TO BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO INCLUDE SOMETHING ON THIS IN THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR DECISION. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ADVICE ON THIS POINT. OUR PRESENT INTENTION IS TO GIVE YOU DISCRETION TO WARN THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES IN ADVANCE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECISION TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HLEASE SEE MIFT.

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FOLIS 040/18

OO LISBON

GRS 65
RESTRICTED
FM FCO 181530Z APR 84
TO IMMEDIATE TRIPOLI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 149 OF 18 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE LISBON
YOUR TEL NO 178: ANGLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS AND THE MEDIA
1. BBC RADIO TOLD ROBERTS (NEWS DEPARTMENT) THIS MORNING THAT YOU WERE IN FAVOUR OF GIVING A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW IF NEWS DEPARTMENT CONCURRED. WE HAVE SINCE TOLD THE BBC THAT YOU YOURSELF WILL NOT BE GIVING INTERVIEWS.

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CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: D Symes
Emergency Unit
DATE: 18 April 1984

PS
PS/Mr Luce
PS/Mr Whitney
PS/PUS
Chief Clerk
Sir J Bullard
Sir J Leahy
Lord N Gordon Lennox
Mr Egerton
Mr Adams
Mr Wright
Mr Long, NENAD
Mr Atkinson, Consular Dept
Mr Goulden, News Dept
MAED
No 10 Downing Street
Cabinet Office

LIBYA: BRITISH DETAINEES
SITREP: 1700 18 April 1984

1. Mr Miles reported on the evening of 17 April that three British nationals had been detained by the Libyans; Messrs Beckford and Campbell of Poole Intardrill, and the Manager of British Caledonian, Mr Ledingham. The three remain detained.

2. The Emergency Unit received a report this morning from the UK branch of Intardrill that a further three British nationals working for Baker Oil Tools in Libya had been arrested.

3. The Emergency Unit has since spoken with Baker Oil Tools in Aberdeen and Baker Production Services. They confirmed that one of their managers, Mr Alan Duncan, was detained this morning for about 30 minutes and released. The company had had no other reports of detention of British nationals working for them. The Embassy have no information of any other detainees apart from the three listed in para 1 above.

D Symes

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FOLIS 23/18

ZZ LISBON

GRS 172
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 181200Z APR 84
TO FLASH TRIPOLI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 148 OF 18 APRIL
INFO FLASH LISBON FOR PS TO PM
ANGLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT NEGOTIATION THROUGH THE FITOURI CHANNEL IS UNLIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE AND THAT IF WE ARE TO ESTABLISH ANY DIALOGUE WHICH WILL BREAK THE STALEMATE, IT MUST BE THROUGH TRIPOLI. BEFORE HEARING OF YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH PROTOCOL, MINISTERS DECIDED THAT YOU SHOULD SEEK AN INTERVIEW WITH A SENIOR LIBYAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PUT THE SIMPLE POINT THAT OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO END THE INCIDENT PEACEFULLY THAT DIPLOMATIC STATUS WILL BE RESPECTED AND THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF STORMING THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR FITOURI'S CONDOLENCE. WE REQUEST THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES TO INSTRUCT FITOURI TO ASSIST THE POLICE IN ASCERTAINING THE STATUS OF THOSE IN THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU.

2. WE REALISE THAT THIS LEAVES MANY QUESTIONS UNANSWERED. IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR DISCUSSION WITH PROTOCOL WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A TELEPRINTER CONVERSATION IF POSSIBLE AT 1200Z TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEP.

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00 LISBON

00 BRUSSELS

00 COPENHAGEN

00 DUBLIN

00 THE HAGUE

00 LUXEMBOURG

00 PARIS

00 UKREPBRUSSELS

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18 APR 1984
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PRIORITY 1 2 NONE

GRS 103
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 181045Z APRIL 84
TO FLASH TRIPOLI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 147 OF 18 APRIL
AND TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, CAIRO, TUNIS, ALGIERS, UKMIS NEW YORK, VALLETTA, EC POSTS, LISBON (FOR PRIME MINISTER) HONG KONG (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE)

LIBYA: ACTIVATION OF THE FCO EMERGENCY UNIT

1. BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION IN LIBYA THE FCO EMERGENCY UNIT IS BEING ACTIVATED FROM 1000 HRS Z TODAY (18 APRIL). THE UNIT WILL BE STAFFED BY PERSONNEL FROM NENAD (TEL 233 4692/4485/4386), DEFENCE DEPARTMENT (TEL 233 4990/4477/4586), CONSULAR DEPARTMENT (233 5619/5420/5752) AND PERSONNEL OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT (STAFF WELFARE MATTERS) (233 4682).

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FOLIS ØØ4/18

OO LISBON

GRS 156
CONFIDENTIAL
FM F C O 18Ø2Ø3Z APR 84
TO FLASH TRIPOLI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 146 OF 18 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE LISBON (FOR P M'S PARTY), CABINET OFFICE.

ANGLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. FITTOURI LEFT THE EMBASSY EARLY THIS MORNING TO SEE HIS WIFE AND GET FOOD. ON HIS RETURN, POLICE, THROUGH ZLITNI, REMINDED HIM OF HIS EARLIER PROMISE TO ASK TRIPOLI FOR PERMISSION TO IDENTIFY THE MURDERER AND HAND OVER WEAPONS. THEY ALSO ASKED HIM TO SEEK PERMISSION FROM TRIPOLI FOR POLICE TO ENTER THE P B TO SEARCH FOR ARMS, ETCETERA. FITTOURI ASKED WHETHER SIDANI AND MABRUH HAD BEEN RELEASED: POLICE SAID THAT WAS BEING ARRANGED. FITTOURI SEEMED RECEPTIVE TO POLICE APPROACH AND HAS NOW RETURN TO THE P B.
2. SIDANI AND MABRUH HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED.
3. PLEASE INFORM F L B AND ASK WHETHER THEY WILL ISSUE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO P B IN LIGHT OF THIS.
4. FITTOURI HAS NOW TELEPHONED POLICE TO SAY THAT HE EXPECTS TRIPOLI'S ANSWER TO HIS EARLIER MESSAGE AT Ø2ØØZ.

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ZZ ROME
ZZ TRIPOLI

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18 APR 1984

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[illegible] 377
SECRET
FM FCO 181235Z APR 84
TO FLASH ROME
TELEGRAM NUMBER 141 OF 18 APRIL
INFO FLASH LISBON PS TO PM TRIPOLI, TUNIS, PARIS, BONN, STOCKHOLM, ALGIERS, HONG KONG (FOR SOSFCA'S PARTY)

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LIBYA

1. MINISTERS ARE COMING CLOSER TO A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LIBYA. THE PRECISE DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT REMAIN TO BE DECIDED. WE ARE HOWEVER CONCERNED TO MAKE PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROTECTING POWER. IT WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THESE PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD NOT (NOT) BECOME PUBLIC. IF THE LIBYANS HEAR OF THEM THEY MAY REACT IN WAYS WHICH COULD INCREASE TENSION AND DAMAGE THE CHANCES OF AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE PRESENT CRISIS.

2. YOU SHOULD ACCORDINGLY APPROACH THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ON MY BEHALF AT THE HIGHEST COMPATIBLE LEVEL WITH THE NEED FOR DISCRETION AND ENQUIRE IF THE ITALIANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE ON THIS TASK FOR US IN LIBYA. YOU SHOULD STRESS WISH FOR THE STRICTEST CONFIDENTIALITY PARTICULARLY OF COURSE IF THE ITALIANS FEEL THEY HAVE TO CONSULT THEIR EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI. THE HOLIDAY PERIOD WILL CAUSE DIFFICULTY BUT WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR AN EARLY RESPONSE, EVEN IF IT IS ONLY A PRELIMINARY ONE.

3. OUR PROVISIONAL INTENTION IS TO PROPOSE A VERY SMALL RESIDUAL BRITISH PRESENCE OF INITIALLY NO MORE THAN TWO OFFICIALS WORKING FROM THE ITALIAN MISSION (NOT (NOT) OUR CHANCERY), MAINLY ON CONSULAR MATTERS. BUT THIS IS SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONSIDERATION, AND WILL HAVE TO BE BALANCED AGAINST THE OBVIOUS MERITS OF A CLEAN BREAK WHICH WOULD REMOVE THE WHOLE OFFICIAL LIBYAN PRESENCE FROM LONDON.

4. WE ARE THEREFORE IN EFFECT ASKING THE ITALIANS TO HANDLE OUR RESIDUAL POLITICAL RELATIONS, TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR BRITISH SUBJECTS IN DIFFICULTIES WITH THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES, AND ALSO TO LOOK AFTER OUR REMAINING PROPERTIES IN LIBYA WITH SOME HELP FROM A HANDFUL OF BRITISH STAFF. THE PUS WILL BE SPEAKING FROM THE ABOVE POINTS TO THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR LATER THIS AFTERNOON.

5. IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO ASK NEARBY POSTS TO TAKE ON ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISSUING VISAS TO LIBYANS TO VISIT THIS COUNTRY.

6. FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION, IF THE ITALIANS DECLINE WE HAVE IT IN MIND TO ASK THE SWEDES INSTEAD.

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FOLIS 046/18

ZZ LISBON

GRS 136
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 181700Z APRIL 84
TO FLASH DAMASCUS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 114 OF 18 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE TRIPOLI
YOUR TELNO 195 (NOT TO TRIPOLI): LIBYA

AR 18/4.

1. GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD CONVEY THE GIST OF THE FOLLOWING TO JALLOUD EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE SYRIANS. BEGINS:

WHATEVER MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED, RECENT EVENTS IN LONDON, CENTERING ON THE WOUNDING OF PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU AND THE KILLING OF A BRITISH POLICEWOMAN, HAVE GENERATED CONSIDERABLE TENSION. IF WE ARE TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION SATISFACTORILY, OUR AMBASSADOR MUST BE ABLE TO TALK TO PEOPLE AT THE DECISION-MAKING LEVEL IN TRIPOLI. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP IN ARRANGING THIS. THE INTERIM HEAD OF THE PLB IS BEING RECEIVED BY THE MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE THIS EVENING.

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ZZ LISBON
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DESKBY 190001Z
FM F C O 182100Z APR 84
TO FLASH LISBON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 97 OF 18 APRIL 1984
AND TO DESKBY 190001Z HONG KONG FOR SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR PRIME MINISTER FROM HOME SECRETARY
ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS.

1. AS YOU KNOW THERE HAS BEEN SOME SLIGHT EASING TODAY IN THAT OUR STAFF IN THE EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. THE SITUATION, HOWEVER, REMAINS TENSE AND UNPREDICTABLE. THE NUB OF THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO GET ALL THE PERSONNEL OUT OF THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU IN ST JAMES'S SQUARE AND WITHIN THAT PROBLEM IS THE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT ISSUE OF THOSE WHO DO NOT IN OUR VIEW HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO THESE ARE OR HOW MANY. I DO NOT HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH IRRATIONAL PEOPLE AND THERE CAN BE NO CERTAINTY THAT ANY PROPOSAL OR DEVICE WHICH WE PUT TO THE LIBYANS (IN TRIPOLI BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE THE INSTRUCTIONS COME FROM) WILL DO THE TRICK.

2. AS I SEE IT WE HAVE A NUMBER OF OPTIONS:-

(A) TO CONTINUE AS WE ARE. I DO NOT THINK THAT THIS COURSE IS LIKELY TO SUCCEED IN THE NEAR FUTURE SINCE THE LIBYANS HAVE BEEN MAKING IT INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER WITH THE POLICE.
THE POLICE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING THE TENSION WITH THE PEOPLES BUREAU BUT THE LIBYANS SEEM TO BE PREPARED TO SIT IT OUT HOLDING THE THREAT OF RETALIATION AGAINST US.

(B) TO BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN THE NORMAL WAY. THIS WOULD INVOLVE SETTING A DEADLINE FOR MUTUAL EVACUATION. THIS APPROACH WOULD WORK WITH A REASONABLY CIVILISED GOVERNMENT, BUT WE CANNOT NECESSARILY BE SURE IN THE CASE OF THE LIBYANS. THEY MIGHT MERELY REFUSE TO MOVE OUT WITHIN THE STATED DEADLINE.

(C) TO WORK FOR MUTUAL EVACUATION BY PUTTING A PACKAGE TO THE LIBYANS GUARANTEEING NOT ONLY FULL DIPLOMATIC TREATMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VIENNA CONVENTION FOR THOSE WHO HAVE IN OUR VIEW DIPLOMATIC STATUS, BUT ALSO FOR THE REST FREE ESCORTED PASSAGE TO THE AIRPORT FOR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE. ONE VERSION OF THIS PACKAGE WOULD INCLUDE AGREEMENT IN ADVANCE THAT IT WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.
WE NEED THIS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE PEOPLES BUREAU WILL REMAIN EMPTY. OTHERWISE THE RISK WOULD REMAIN THAT OTHER NON-DIPLOMATIC LIBYANS NOW IN BRITAIN WOULD RE-OCCUPY IT.

(D) AS FOR (C) ABOVE, BUT WITH THE DIFFERENCE THAT THE BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE TO BE AGREED, BUT WOULD BE HELD IN RESERVE FOR UNILATERAL ACTION BY US LATER.
ONE DIFFICULTY HERE WOULD BE THAT WE SHOULD BE OPEN TO THE CHARGE OF HAVING MISLED THE LIBYANS UNLESS WE WERE ABLE TO FIND A FRESH PRETEXT AT A LATER STAGE THOUGH THAT MIGHT NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT: AND THE LIBYANS MIGHT THEN RESPOND FORCIBLY AGAINST OUR COMMUNITY IN LIBYA.

3. ALL OF THE ABOVE COURSES INVOLVE SOME RISK AND THE DANGER OF SOME DOMESTIC CRITICISM, AND I MUST REPEAT THAT THERE IS NO CERTAINTY THAT ANY OF THEM WILL WORK. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, TO CHOOSE THE LEAST OF THE EVILS.

4. ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO TRY TO SCALE DOWN OUR RESPECTIVE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, IN WHICH CASE WE WOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS.

(A) THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE HEADS OF MISSION AS A MARK OF DISAPPROVAL LEAVING STHE REST OF THE STAFF IN PLACE. THIS WOULD BE ENTIRELY UNSATISFACTORY IN THAT IT WOULD LEAVE THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU MANNED AS BEFORE.

(B) TO NEGOTIATE A SCALING DOWN ON BOTH SIDES. THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO AGREE ON AND WOULD LEAVE THE SAME PROBLEM AS IN (A), THOUGH ON A LESSER SCALE. IT WOULD ALSO NOT DEAL WITH THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS IN THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED TO IGNORE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THEM.

5. RICHARD LUCE AND I ON BALANCE PREFER OPTION 2(C) THOUGH OPTION 2(D) IS A FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE, EITHER OF COURSE WOULD POSE DIFFICULT PRESENTATIONAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT WE HAVE HITHERTO INDICATED THAT WE SHOULD WANT TO SEE THOSE WITHOUT DIPLOMATIC STATUS QUESTIONED BY THE POLICE. WE WOULD HAVE TO FACE THESE PROBLEMS SQUARELY AND SAY THAT, REGRETTABLY, THIS COURSE INVOLVES LETTING A MURDERER GO FREE: BUT THE OBJECTIVE MUST BE TO AVOID FURTHER VIOLENCE OR LOSS OF INNOCENT LIFE. WE COULD ADD THAT ON THE BASIS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVICE IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO BRING A CHARGE AGAINST ANY ONE OF THE 40 IN THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU WHO MIGHT HAVE FIRED THE SHOTS WHICH KILLED THE POLICEWOMAN. FURTHERMORE IT SEEMED TO BE THE BEST COURSE TO CLEAR OUT THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU QUICKLY, THEREBY REDUCING THE RISK OF ANY FURTHER VIOLENCE OR POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO BRITISH PROPERTY OR PERSONNEL IN BRITAIN OR IN LIBYA.

6. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO USE AN INTERMEDIARY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE LIBYANS. THE PROBLEM HERE IS THAT ANY NEGOTIATOR WILL TEND TO WORK TO A MIDDLE COURSE WHICH MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO ACCEPT. ON THE OTHERHAND, IF WE COULD FIND A PERSON WHO ENJOYED BOTH THE CONFIDENCE OF THE LIBYANS AND OURSELVES, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO USE HIM TO EXPLAIN CLEARLY TO THE LIBYANS EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND AND TO REASSURE THEM THAT WE SHALL BE WILLING TO CARRY OUT ANY COMMITMENTS THAT WE MAKE. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT AT PRESENT THEY BELIEVE THAT ONCE WE PERSUADE THEM TO LEAVE THE BUILDING WE SHALL ARREST OR SHOOT THEM.

7. SOME OF THE LIBYANS NOW SEEM TO BE BEHAVING AS IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO FORGET WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS AND TO ''GET BACK TO NORMAL WORK'' WITH US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BUT WE ARE ALL AGREED THAT AFTER WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS THIS WOULD BE QUITE UNACCEPTABLE.

HOWE

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ZZ LISBON

GR85
SECRET
FM ROME 181628Z APR 84
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 261 OF 18 APR 84
INFO FLASH LISBON (FOR PS TO PM), HONG KONG (FOR SOSFA'S PARTY), TRIPOLI.
INFO IMMEDIATE ALGIERS, BONN, PARIS, STOCKHOLM, TUNIS.

YOUR TELNO 141: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LIBYA.

1. I SPOKE ACCORDINGLY TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE MFA THIS EVENING EMPHASISING THE NEED FOR DISCRETION.

2. MALFATTI SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE RIGHT FOR ITALY TO ASSUME THIS RESPONSIBILITY, BUT HE WOULD NEED TO CONSULT ANDREOTTI FIRST. HE UNDERTOOK TO DO THAT AND TO COME BACK TO ME BY TOMORROW MORNING AT THE LATEST.

BRIDGES

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ZZ LISBON

GRPS 100

SECRET
FM CABINET OFFICE 180435Z APR 84
TO F L A S H LISBON (FOR PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY)
TELEGRAM NUMBER MISC 114 OF 18 APRIL
AND TO F L A S H TRIPOLI
INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING (FOR S/S'S PARTY)

LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU (LPB)

1. THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS OVERNIGHT. RECENT INDICATIONS SHOW THOSE INSIDE THE LPB ADOPTING A MORE CONCILIATORY APPROACH. THEY HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, EXPRESSED REGRET AT THE KILLING OF THE POLICEWOMAN AND STATED THAT THEY WISH TO SEE A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE AWAITING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM TRIPOLI. THEY ARE ANXIOUS THAT THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES DO NOT ENTER OR SEARCH THE LPB.

2. MINISTERS WILL THIS MORNING BE CONSIDERING THE TIMING AND METHODS OF PROCEEDING AS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF MY TEL NO 431 TO PEKING.

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FOLIS Ø45/18

OO LISBON

GPS 2ØØ

CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 181700Z
FM UKMIS NEW YORK 181616Z APR 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TEL NO 4Ø1 OF 18 APRIL 1984
INFO IMMEDIATE TRIPOLI
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON HONG KONG FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY
INFO ROUTINE CAIRO TUNIS ALGIERS VALLETTA

FOR EMERGENCY UNIT
MY TELNO 399
LIBYAN EMBASSY

1. THE LIBYAN LETTER IN TUR WILL FOOL NO ONE HERE. THE LOCAL MEDIA HAVE BEEN GIVING A FULL AND ACCURATE REPORT OF THE EVENTS AT THE LIBYAN EMBASSY. THE LETTER WILL BE SEEN AT THE UN AS THE USUAL LIBYAN TACTIC OF MAKING PRE-EMPTIVE COUNTER ACCUSATIONS WHENEVER THEY ARE IN THE WRONG.

2. WE SHOULD NEVERTHELESS ANSWER IT WITH A LETTER OF OUR OWN TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL. I RECOMMEND THAT WE SHOULD DO THIS IMMEDIATELY BY CLOSE OF PLAY TODAY, 18 APRIL, NEW YORK TIME. WE SHOULD AIM TO MAKE THE REPLY A BRIEF FACTUAL ACCOUNT WHICH WILL CONVINCE PEOPLE AND GAIN RESPECT BY ITS STRAIGHT FORWARD TONE. YOU WILL WISH TO JUDGE WHETHER IT SHOULD CONTAIN A REFERENCE TO WHAT IS HAPPENING AT TRIPOLI.

3. IF YOU AGREE, GRATEFUL FOR A DRAFT REPLY.

THOMSON

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LIBYAN CRISIS

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PS
PS/MR LUCE
PS LADY YOUNG
PS/MR WHITNEY
PS/PUS
LORD N GORDON LENNOX
MR WRIGHT
MR EGERTON
MR ADAMS
SIR J LEAHY
CHIEF CLERK
MR WHITE
SIR J BULLARD
HD/NENAD
HD/MAED
HD/DEFENCE
HD/PUSD
HD/CONSULAR
HD/NEWS
HD/SECURITY
HD/PROTOCOL
HD/POD
RESIDENT CLERK
EMERGENCY UNIT

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No.10 DOWNING ST
CABINET OFFICE BRIEFING ROOM
DS11 MOD

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18/4

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DESKBY 181600Z
FM UKMIS NEW YORK 181452Z APR 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TEL NO 399 OF 18 APRIL 1984
AND INFO TO IMMEDIATE TRIPOLI
AND INFO TO PRIORITY WASHINGTON HONG KONG FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY
AND INFO ROUTINE CAIRO TUNIS ALGIERS VALLETTA

FOR EMERGENCY UNIT
LIBYAN EMBASSY

1. THE LIBYAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES HAS SENT A LETTER DATED 17 APRIL TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL. IT HAS BEEN CIRCULATED THIS MORNING AS A DOCUMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (DOC A/39/186 OF 18 APRIL). THE TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE
ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PEOPLES COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLES FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICE, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

ON THE MORNING OF 17 APRIL 1984, THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES SURROUNDED THE LIBYAN PEOPLES OFFICE IN LONDON, THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION WHICH REPRESENTS THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES LIBYAN JAMAHIRIYA IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. IN ADDITION, MIDDLE EASTERN ELEMENTS HOSTILE TO LIBYA ATTACKED THE OFFICE WHILE IT WAS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE BRITISH POLICE. THE BRITISH POLICE SUBSEQUENTLY DETAINED SEVERAL LIBYAN DIPLOMATS AND THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT OF THE JAMAHIRIYAS NEWS AGENCY.

FURTHERMORE, THE UNITED KINGDOM FOREIGN OFFICE SUMMONED THE LIBYAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN LONDON AND ONE OF HIS ASSISTANTS TO APPEAR, AND AT THIS MOMENT THEIR WHEREABOUTS IS NOT KNOWN.

IN AN ESCALATION OF THIS PROVOCATION BY THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES, UNITED KINGDOM POLICE OFFICERS BURST INTO THE LIBYAN ARAB

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IN AN ESCALATION OF THIS PROVOCATION BY THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES, UNITED KINGDOM POLICE OFFICERS BURST INTO THE LIBYAN ARAB COLLEGE IN LONDON AND TOOK AS HOSTAGES STUDENTS STUDYING THERE. THEY ALSO BROKE INTO THE RESIDENCES OF LIBYAN STUDENTS IN LONDON, ILL TREATING AND EJECTING THEM IN AN INHUMAN MANNER. THEY ALSO DETAINED SEVERAL LIBYAN TRAVELLERS AT HEATHROW AIRPORT.

IN CALLING TO YOUR ATTENTION THESE ACTS WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND PRACTICE, THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA ASKS YOU TO USE YOUR GOOD OFFICES TO PERSUADE THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT TO END THE SIEGE OF THE LIBYAN PEOPLES OFFICE IN LONDON, TO ALLOW THE EMPLOYEES OF THAT OFFICE TO CIRCULATE FREELY, AND TO RELEASE THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND THE DIPLOMATS DETAINED BY THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES AND THE LIBYAN NATIONALS HELD AT HEATHROW AIRPORT.

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD ARRANGE TO HAVE THIS LETTER CIRCULATED AS A DOCUMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, UNDER ITEM 129 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION.
UNQUOTE

2. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWS.

THOMSON

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Cabinet Office
Lisbon
Sec Service
Emergency Unit (BY TELEX)

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ANGLO LIBYAN RELATIONS ADVANCE COPY ADVANCE COPIES 18

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PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR EGERTON
MR ADAMS
.....
.....
HD/NENAD
HD/MVD (2)
D.HD/PUSD
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/MAED
HD/Defence Dept
RESIDENT CLERK
HD/Security Dept

MR HARRINGTON F4, HOME OFFICE
No 10 Downing Street

Pu Duck 18/4

SENT 18 APR 1984

CONFIDENTIAL
FM TRIPOLI 180827Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 177 OF 18/4/84
AND TO IMMEDIATE ACCRA, KUWAIT

MY TELNO 176. ANGLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS.

1. GHANAIAN AMBASSADOR HAS OFFERED TO MEDIATE. I HAVE EXPLAINED THAT I HOPE TO SEE TRAIKI SHORTLY, BUT SAID I WOULD BEAR HIM IN MIND (ESPECIALLY AS KUWAITI AMBASSADOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER ARE LEAVING TOGETHER FOR KUWAIT).

2. ASMAH'S STANDING HERE IS SUCH THAT HIS OFFER IS NOT TO BE SNEEZED AT.

MILES

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ANGLO LIBYAN RELATIONS

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PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR EGERTON
MR ADAMS
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HD/NENAD
HD/MVD (2)
D.HD/PUSD
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/MAED
HD/Defence Dept
RESIDENT CLERK
HD/Security Dept
HD/POD

MR HARRINGTON F4, HOME OFFICE

No 10 Downing Street

SECRETARIAT SENT 18 APR 1984

CONFIDENTIAL

FM TRIPOLI 180808Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 176 OF 18/4/84
INFO IMMEDIATE KUWAIT

MY TELNO 175: ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS

MIPT

1. WE TOO WISH TO AVOID ESCALATION. THE LIBYAN ACTIONS HAVE BEEN BADLY RECEIVED IN BRITAIN. ONE WOMAN POLICE CONSTABLE HAS BEEN KILLED AND 10 INJURED ARE IN HOSPITAL.

2. IN REPLY TO POINTS MADE TO ME ON THE TELEPHONE ON 17 APRIL:

A. LIFTING THE SEIGE. EVERYONE IN THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU IN LONDON IS FREE TO LEAVE THE BUILDING. THOSE WITH DIPLOMATIC STATUS ARE ALLOWED TO GO HOME. FITURI HAS ALREADY BEEN IN AND OUT SEVERAL TIMES AND HAS BEEN HOME.

B. RELEASE OF SECRETARY AND MEMBERS OF THE PB. FITURI WAS NEVER DETAINED. SUDANI HAS BEEN RELEASED. A NUMBER OF OTHER LIBYANS ARRESTED HAVE BEEN RELEASED. WE REQUEST RELEASE OF BRITISH SUBJECTS DETAINED IN LIBYA.

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OF BRITISH SUBJECTS DETAINED IN LIBYA.

C. FOOD AND DRINK. FOOD AND DRINK HAVE NOT BEEN REFUSED TO THE PB AT ANY TIME. FITURI COLLECTED FOOD FROM HIS HOME THIS MORNING.

3. I REPEAT THREE REQUESTS MADE YESTERDAY:

A. PERMISSION FOR THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES TO ENTER THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE MURDERER AND TAKE POSSESSION OF WEAPONS. THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN PUT DIRECT TO FITURI AND WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF HE COULD BE GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO AGREE.

B. PERMISSION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO LEAVE THIS EMBASSY AND RETURN HOME AT ONCE. AT THE VERY LEAST I REQUEST THAT THIS EMBASSY SHOULD HAVE RECIPROCAL TREATMENT IN HUMANITARIAN MATTERS.

C. A MEETING WITH DR TRAIKI IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR FRIENDLY MEETING ON 17 APRIL.

FLASH

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MILES

passed to F.R. Liaison and Cab. Office

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10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

The Home Secretary's telegram is still awaited. We will have it for you first thing in the morning for a discussion at a meeting at perhaps 8.15. The Home Secretary's telephone conversation with you at 7 o'clock will of course cover only the presentational aspects for your interview on the "Today" programme.

TF

18 April 1984

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10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Attached is the Home Secretary's telegram. His 'phone call will of course cover only the presentation of the position during your "Today" interview.

If you agree, John plans a meeting at about 8.15 to discuss the substance of the telegram.

TT

18 April 1984

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OO LISBON

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FM TRIPOLI 18Ø735Z APR
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 173 OF 18/4/84

TELEPRINTER CONVERSATION LEAHY/MILES OF 17 APRIL: POSSIBLE INTERESTS SECTION.

1. IF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE BROKEN, I CONSIDER IT WOULD BE VERY DESIRABLE TO RETAIN AN INTERESTS SECTION HERE IN VIEW OF THE LARGE BRITISH COMMUNITY AND THE DIFFICULTIES THEY WILL FACE.

2. I WELL UNDERSTAND THE RELUCTANCE TO ALLOW A LIBYAN INTERESTS SECTION IN LONDON AND IT IS TRUE THAT THE LIBYANS' FIRST INSTINCT WILL BE RECIPROCITY. BUT I WOULD NOT EXCLUDE A FORMULA WHEREBY WE WOULD REMAIN HERE BUT THEY WOULD NOT REMAIN IN LONDON. THEY HAVE AN INTEREST IN OUR BEING HERE PROVIDED WE RETAIN AT LEAST SOME VISA ISSUING CAPACITY. THE RECIPROCITY ISSUE MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE EVADED, EG BY TELLING THEM THAT WE QUITE UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO ACCEPT REPRESENTATION WITHIN AN EMBASSY IN LONDON IN VIEW OF THE REJECTION OF THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF REPRESENTATION AND EMBASSIES IN THE GREEN BOOK IDEOLOGY.

MILES

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OO LISBON (FOR PRIME MINISTERS PARTY)

GRS 1500
UNCLASSIFIED
FM COI LONDON
TO IMMEDIATE LISBON
TELNO RETRACT 001
OF 1800 30Z APRIL 1984
AND TO IMMEDIATE HONGKONG
IMMEDIATE LOS ANGELES

INFO PRIORITY NO TEN
PRIORITY FCO

FOR LISBON - ''IMMEDIATE FOLLOWING FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND CHIEF PRESS SECRETARY''

HONGKONG ''IMMEDIATE FOLLOWING FOR SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS AND HEAD OF NEWS DEPARTMENT

LOS ANGELES ''FOR HRH PRINCE ANDREW

COPY TO NO TEN DOWNING STREET
FCO NEWS DEPARTMENT
FCO SECRETARY OF STATE'S PRIVATE OFFICE

FOLLOWING IS LPS SUMMARY OF FIRST EDITIONS OF PAPERS DATED WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 1984

THE SHOOTING AT THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU DOMINATES THE FRONT PAGES, WITH MANY INSIDE PAGES ALSO GIVEN OVER TO EXTENSIVE COVERAGE.

THE TIMES FRONT PAGE LEAD HEADLINE IS ''ARMED POLICE VIGIL AFTER 'BARBARIC OUTRAGE' '', RUN ACROSS THE TOP OF TWO PICTURES OF THE SHOT WPC LYING ON THE GROUND. BELOW THE PICTURES ARE TWO NEWS STORIES, ONE HEADED ''LIBYA EMBASSY SHOTS KILL POLICEWOMAN'', WITH DETAILS OF THE DEMONSTRATION, THE SHOOTING AND THE CURRENT SIEGE, THE OTHER, WITH THE HEADLINE ''DIPLOMATIC STATUS NO BAR TO POLICE, SAYS BRITTAN'', GIVING FURTHER BACKGROUND. PAGES TWO AND THREE ARE ALSO LARGELY DEVOTED TO THE INCIDENT. ''AN UNDIPLOMATIC OUTRAGE'' IS THE HEADLINE TO THE TIMES FIRST LEADER WHICH DESCRIBES THE OUTRAGE AS ONE THAT WOULD BE APPALLING BY ANY STANDARDS. BY DIPLOMATIC STANDARDS IT IS WHOLLY INTOLERABLE. BUT WHILE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, IT CONTINUES, MUST SAFEGUARD ITS CITIZENS FROM LIBYAN OUTRAGES IN LONDON, IT CANNOT IGNORE THE SAFETY OF THOSE IN LIBYA ITSELF. THE GOVERNMENT WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO TREAD CAREFULLY. NEVERTHELESS, BRITAIN CANNOT PERMIT FOREIGN WARS TO BE FOUGHT ON ITS SOIL OR FOREIGN ''DIPLOMATS'' TO FIRE ON BRITISH CITIZENS

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH ALSO USES PICTURES OF THE SHOT WPC AND ITS MAIN FRONT PAGE HEADLINE RUNS '' 'COME OUT' CALL TO LIBYANS''. ITS REPORT SAYS THAT AS ARMED POLICE SURROUNDED THE LIBYAN EMBASSY, MR LEON BRITTAN SENT A MESSAGE TO THE LIBYANS BESIEGED IN THE BUILDING CALLING THEM TO COME OUT. AGAIN, PAGES TWO AND THREE ARE DEVOTED TO THE OUTRAGE. ITS FIRST LEADER DECLARES THAT THE LIBYAN PRESENCE IN BRITAIN IS NO LONGER A JOKE. IT IS TIME FOR TOUGH ACTION. THE MISSION SHOULD BE SHUT DOWN AND THE ''DIPLOMATS'' SENT PACKING

''BRITTAN ORDERS 'WAIT AND TALK' TACTICS ON SIEGE'' IS THE GUARDIAN'S FRONT PAGE LEAD HEADLINE. ITS REPORT SAYS THAT COBRA, THE HIGH PRIORITY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POLICE OFFICERS, WAS IN ALMOST CONSTANT SESSION TONIGHT AS ARMED POLICE RINGED THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU IN LONDON. THE GUARDIAN LEADER FOR ITS PART SAYS THAT REGRETTABLY, THE ONLY COURSE IS A STRICT, IF SUPERFICIALLY CRAVEN, ADHERENCE TO DIPLOMATIC USAGE. IN OTHER WORDS THE LIBYANS WILL HAVE TO BE EXPELLED AND THE BRITISH DIPLOMATIC STAFF IN TRIPOLI WITHDRAWN

THE FINANCIAL TIMES, UNDER THE HEADLINE ''POLICE SET FOR LONG SIEGE OF LIBYAN 'EMBASSY' AFTER LONDON SHOOTINGS ACROSS THE TOP OF PAGE ONE, SAYS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND LIBYA REACHED A CRISIS AFTER THE INCIDENT. IT GOES ON TO SAY THAT IN DECIDING THEIR NEXT MOVE MINISTERS WILL BE MINDFUL OF THE ESTIMATED 8,000 BRITONS WORKING IN LIBYA

THE SUN SPLASHES A PICTURE OF THE STRICKEN WPC ON ITS FRONT PAGE TOGETHER WITH THE HEADLINE ''MURDER OF THE TINEST WOMAN IN BLUE''. ITS STORY CENTRES ON WPC YVONNE FLETCHER, WHILE PAGES TWO AND THREE ARE DEVOTED TO THE INCIDENT, INCLUDING A REPORT HEADED ''SAD THATCHER IS TOLD IN MID-AIR'' TOGETHER WITH A PICTURE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

THE DAILY MAIL SAYS ''THE DEMO DEATH PLOT'' ON ITS FRONT PAGE AND THE DAILY EXPRESS HAS ''KILLED IN ACTION'', BOTH ALSO WITH PICTURES OF THE WPC RECEIVING TREATMENT IN THE STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO PORTUGAL IS COVERED ON PAGE SIX OF THE TIMES. UNDER A PICTURE OF MRS THATCHER INSPECTING A GUARD OF HONOUR IN LISBON IS THE HEADLINE ''THATCHER READY TO WELCOME LISBON IN REFORMED EEC''. THE REPORT SAYS: ''MRS THATCHER STARTED A THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT YESTERDAY BY SAYING BRITAIN WANTS TO WELCOME PORTUGAL IN 1986 TO THE EEC, BUT TO ONE REFORMED ON THE BASIS OF FAIRER DISTRIBUTION OF BURDENS AND BENEFITS.'' IT REPORTS MRS THATCHER AS SAYING AT A BANQUET THAT PORTUGAL'S ENTRY HAD BEEN TOO LONG DELAYED. DR SOARES'S PREPARED REPLY, SAYS THE REPORT, CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY APPEARANCE OF TAKING SIDES AMONG THE TEN

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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH USES A PICTURE OF MRS THATCHER WITH DR SOARES ON PAGE FOUR. HERE THE HEADLINE IS ''HELP TO REFORM EEC, THATCHER TELLS LISBON''. MRS THATCHER, IT REPORTS, SAID ON HER ARRIVAL IN LISBON THAT THE VISIT WAS GREATLY OVERDUE BUT VERY

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REPORTING THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CHINA, THE TIMES SAYS ON PAGE SIX ''CHINA STILL AIMS FOR DEAL IN SEPTEMBER''. IT DECLARES THAT AN INFORMED SOURCES SAID THAT THE FUTURE OF FUTURE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS FOR HONG KONG HAD BEEN ''TOUCHED ON'' IN THE TALKS BETWEEN SIR GEOFFREY HOWE AND SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS. A DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORT ON PAGE FOUR IS HEADED ''HONG KONG TALKS STILL HAMPERED, SAYS HOWE''. SIR GEOFFREY, IT GOES ON TO SAY, LET IT BE KNOWN THAT ''SIGNIFICANT POINTS'' WERE STILL HAMPERING AGREEMENT ON WHAT IS ENVISAGED FOR HONG KONG AFTER THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN 1997. THE STORY ALSO SAYS THAT THERE WERE DISTRUBING SIGNS IN PEKING THAT ITS CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE BRITISH POLITICAL SCENE MAY BE SOMEWHAT AWRY, WITH THE OFFICIAL CHINESE MAGAZINE OBSERVATION POST ARGUING THAT MRS THATCHER WAS NOW DRIFTING AWAY FROM SUPPORT OF AMERICA IN FAVOUR OF RUSSIA. A FINANCIAL TIMES REPORT ON PAGE FOUR, HEADED ''HOWE MEETS CHINESE LEADERS'', SAYS THAT ZHAO ZIYANG TOLD SIR GEOFFREY HOWE THAT A SETTLEMENT OF THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WOULD PROMOTE THE EXISTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA TO A NEW STAGE. ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, CONTINUES THE FT, SIR GEOFFREY THEN TOLD ZHAO THAT HE ALSO HOPED FOR AN EARLY AND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT. THE DAILY MAIL TAKES A LIGHTER LOOK AT THE VISIT. OVER A PICTURE OF A SMILING SIR GEOFFREY WITH HIS CHINESE COUNTERPART IS THE HEADLINE ''PAPERWORK IS LIKE BEING AT SCHOOL SAYS SIR GEOFFREY''

ON THE MINERS' STRIKE, THE TIMES HEADLINE SAYS ON THE BACK PAGE ''THATCHER READY TO TACKLE TOTAL PIT SHUTDOWN'', REPORTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PREPARED CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR A TOTAL PIT STRIKE IN TWO WEEKS. THE DAILY TELEGRAPH DECLARES ON PAGE SIX ''CABINET PREPARED FOR ALL-OUT STRIKE BY MINERS''. A HEADLINE ON PAGE ONE OF THE FINANCIAL TIMES RUNS ''MINERS' PROTEST GAINS MOMENTUM'', DESPITE REFERRING TO A VOTE BY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE N.U.M. DELEGATES AGAINST A CHANGE IN UNION RULES OVER CALLING A STRIKE. REPORTING THE SAME DEVELOPMENT, THE DAILY MAIL SAYS ''PIT REBELS HOLD OUT AGAINST STRIKE MOVE''

THE ROW BETWEEN OBSERVER EDITOR DONALD TRELFORD AND PROPRIETOR TINY ROWLAND GAINS COVERAGE. THE GUARDIAN PUTS THE STORY ON THE FRONT PAGE WITH THE HEADLINE ''OBSERVER WAS THREATENED WITH CLOSURE OVER ATROCITY STORY''. THE TIMES ON ITS BACK PAGE SAYS ''OBSERVER EDITOR VOWS TO STAY.'' THE ROW, OVER TRELFORD'S REPORT ON ATROCITIES IN MATABELELAND, IS PUT ON PAGE OF THE DAILY TELEGRAPH - ''LONRHO CHIEF TELLS EDITOR TO 'BALANCE' ZIMBABWE STORY''

THE MAJOR FOREIGN STORY CONCERNS U.S. VICE-PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH6S VISIT TO GENEVA. ''BUSH IN GENEVA TO CHAMPION PACT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS'' SAYS THE DAILY TELEGRAPH ON PAGE FIVE, GOING ON TO COMMENT THAT ALTHOUGH RUSSIAN REACTIONS ARE IN DOUBT, THE USE OF GAS IN THE GULF WAR WILL ENSURE A FAVOURABLE RECEPTION FROM INTERNATIONAL OPINION FOR THE PACT. THE TIMES SAYS ''BUSH READY TO UNVEIL CHEMICAL ARMS BAN'' ON PAGE FIVE. ON PAGE EIGHT, THE GUARDIAN SAYS ''RUSSIA PLANS TOUGH REPLY TO BUSH ON DRAFT TREATY''. BUT EUROPEAN NEUTRALS, IT GOES ON, ARE URGING BOTH SUPERPOWERS TO MODERATE THEIR TONE

THE DAILY MIRROR WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR THIS SUMMARY

ENDS LPS SUMMARY OF FIRST EDITIONS OF PAPERS DATED WEDNESDAY 18TH

NNNN

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File

Rey

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 April, 1984

X-ref

The Prime Minister has asked me to convey to you the following message:

> "I learnt with great sadness of Yvonne's death earlier today. I extend to you both my deep and heartfelt sympathy.
>
> The loss which you have suffered is immeasurable; and the whole nation mourns with you."

(David Barclay)

Mr. & Mrs. M. Fletcher.

NR.

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10 DOWNING STREET

PARENTS

Father Michael - prefers to be known as Tim

Mother Queenie.

Presently at Bow St. Police station.

Could send letter c/o Chief. Supt at Bow St.

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The Prime Minister has asked me to convey to you the following message:

"I learnt with great sadness of the ~~tragic~~ Yvonne's death ~~of your daughter~~ earlier today. I extend to you both my deep and heartfelt sympathy.

The loss which you have suffered is immeasurable; and the whole nation mourns with you.

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I learnt with great sadness of the death of your daughter earlier today. I extend to you both my ~~deep and~~ heartfelt sympathy in

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MR. FLESHER

David Barclay phoned with a draft message to the parents of the policewoman who died as a result of the shooting outside the Libyan Embassy earlier today. If the Prime Minister approves the message it will be sent in the form of a Private Secretary letter from No.10. The text is as follows:

The Prime Minister has asked me to convey to you the following message:

"I learnt with great sadness of Yvonne's death earlier today. I extend to you both my deep and heartfelt sympathy.

The loss which you have suffered is immeasurable: and the whole nation mourns with you."

The parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fletcher, have come to London and are at Bow Street Police station - the message will be sent there.

Debbie

17 April 1984

Approved by PM 17.4.84
Duty Clerk to despatch.

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FOLIS 028/17

ZZ LISBON (FOR P.M.'S PARTY)
GRS 454
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 171755Z APR 84
TO FLASH PEKING
TELEGRAM NUMBER 433 OF 17 APRIL
AND TO FLASH LISBON AND TRIPOLI
ANGLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS SITREP AS AT 1730Z.

2. THE WOMAN POLICE CONSTABLE INJURED IN THIS MORNING'S SHOOTING DIED EARLY THIS AFTERNOON. TEN OTHER CASUALTIES ARE DETAINED IN HOSPITAL. THE SITUATION AT ST JAMES'S SQUARE IS SLIGHTLY CALMER BUT STILL TENSE. THE POLICE HAVE CORDONED OFF THE LIBYAN PEOPLES BUREAU (LPB). THEIR MAIN SHORT-TERM PREOCCUPATION HAS BEEN TO LOCATE AND GET HOLD OF THE WEAPON OR WEAPONS USED THIS MORNING AND TO STAVE OFF ANY FURTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE. THEY WISH TO SEARCH THE LPB. WE HAVE ASKED THE INTERIM ACTING HEAD OF THE LPB TO ALLOW THIS. HE HAS EXPRESSED READINESS TO COOPERATE BUT HAS SAID HE MUST HAVE AUTHORITY FROM TRIPOLI. FITOURI, WHO HAD BEEN OUTSIDE THE LPB DURING THE DAY, ONLY ENTERED THE OFFICE AT 1730Z AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE POLICE, LEAVING HIS DEPUTY AS LIAISON OFFICER OUTSIDE.

3. WE HAVE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY WHETHER TO GO AHEAD IF NECESSARY WITHOUT LIBYAN AGREEMENT. TO ENTER THE PREMISES WITHOUT LIBYAN AGREEMENT WOULD HOWEVER BE CLEARLY CONTRARY TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IT COULD BE JUSTIFIED ONLY IN THE LAST RESORT AS A MATTER OF RETALIATION FOR THE ILLEGAL ACTION ON THEIR SIDE AND WOULD SET A VERY DANGEROUS PRECEDENT AS WELL AS INVITING COUNTER-RETALIATION. THE SITUATION SEEMS LIKELY TO DRAG ON FOR SOME TIME. THE CABINET OFFICE BRIEFING ROOM WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE THROUGH THE NIGHT.

4. SIX LIBYANS WERE ARRESTED AT HEATHROW THIS AFTERNOON. TWO OF THEM WERE IN A CAR WHICH HAD BEEN SPOTTED LEAVING ST JAMES'S SQUARE EARLIER. THE OTHER FOUR MET THEM AT THE AIRPORT. FOUR OF THE SIX HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED. THE LIBYAN AIRLINES FLIGHT TO TRIPOLI WAS SEARCHED BUT WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT RESULT.

5. ON THE PRESS ASPECTS, WE ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE HOME OFFICE. THE HOME SECRETARY HAS GIVEN A NUMBER OF RADIO AND TELEVISION INTERVIEWS. THE LINE WE ARE TAKING IS THAT THE FIRST PRIORITY IS TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER AND CALM THINGS DOWN AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. BUT IT IS COMPLETELY INTOLERABLE AND A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THAT VICIOUS ATTACKS SHOULD BE LAUNCHED IN THE STREETS OF LONDON ON PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY DEMONSTRATORS AND ON THE POLICE. WE ARE KEEPING THE LPB UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE AND ARE URGENTLY REVIEWING THE NEXT STEPS. AT TODAY'S FCO PRESS CONFERENCE WE RECALLED MR LUCE'S RADIO INTERVIEW ON 11 MARCH QUOTE IF WE GET TO A STATE WHERE ANY COUNTRY USES BRITISH SOIL FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF ITS OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS BY VIOLENT MEANS, THIS IS TOTALLY AND UTTERLY UNACCEPTABLE AND BOUND TO DAMAGE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS UNQUOTE.

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CONFIDENTIAL

13713 - 1

ZZ PEKING
ZZ TRIPOLI
GRS 285
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 171730 APR 84
TO FLASH PEKING
TELEGRAM NUMBER 431 OF 17 APRIL
AND TO FLASH LISBON
INFORMATION FLASH TRIPOLI
FOLLOWING FOR SECRETARY OF STATE/PRIME MINISTER FROM MINISTER OF STATE
ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS

PA Dab 18/4

1. A REPORT ON THE SITUATION HERE AND IN TRIPOLI HAS BEEN TELEGRAPHED SEPARATELY TO YOU.

2. I AM AFRAID THAT THE SITUATION IS GETTING INCREASINGLY TENSE FOR OUR PERSONNEL IN TRIPOLI. I HAVE OF COURSE BEEN CONSULTING LEON BRITTAN ABOUT ACTION HERE AS WELL AS THOSE CONCERNED IN THE OFFICE. WE ALL AGREE THAT THE BEST COURSE IS TO MOVE TO A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS OBSERVING THE VARIOUS CONVENTIONS IN THIS RESPECT. THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST SAFEGUARD FOR OUR EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI. SUBJECT TO YOUR AGREEMENT, I WOULD AIM TO ANNOUNCE THIS AS SOON AS IT CAN BE SET UP. WE WOULD AGREE TO THE
APPOINTMENT OF PROTECTING POWERS (FOR OUR PART WE ARE INCLINED TO TRY THE ITALIANS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE). THUS ALL THOSE IN THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU WHO HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY WOULD LEAVE THE COUNTRY WITHIN A STATED PERIOD FOLLOWING THE BREAK. THERE WILL HAVE TO BE FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH THE HOME SECRETARY ABOUT NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AT PRESENT IN THE LPB OFFICE IN ST JAMES'S SQUARE. THERE MAY BE SOME 30 OF THESE. I HOPE THAT WE CAN WORK TOWARDS DEPORTATION OF ALL OF THEM ALTHOUGH IF THERE IS ANY EVIDENCE TO INCRIMINATE ANY ONE OF THEM FOR THE MURDER OF THE POLICEWOMAN A CHARGE WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL HOWEVER WHETHER ANY SUCH EVIDENCE WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

3. IF YOU AGREE IN PRINCIPLE I HOPE YOU CAN GIVE ME

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DISCRETION TO PROCEED ACCORDINGLY AND WE WILL TRY TO MANAGE THINGS IN SUCH A WAY SO AS GRADUALLY TO DEFUSE WHAT IS A VERY TENSE AND DANGEROUS SITUATION.

HOWE

COPIES SENT TO
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS

LIMITED
NENAD
MAED
M & VD
NEWS D
PUSD
PROTOCOL D
DEF D
SECD
MED

CONS D
PS
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
MR EGERTON

COPIES TO:
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MRS DENZA LEGAL ADVISER
MR GIBBS PROTOCOL D

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PRIME MINISTER

The position is as follows:

London

All is quiet outside the Embassy. Fitouli, the Head of Mission, has come out of the Embassy to collect cigarettes and drink. He reported that he had been in touch with the Libyan Government who were worried at the extent of developments today. He appeared reasonably optimistic that there would be a peaceful outcome and that the staff (of whom the police believe there are about 30) would leave quietly. No-one, however, believes that Fitouli is an especially reliable witness.

COBRA is continuing to work overnight; the Home Secretary is on his way back from Windsor; and Richard Luce is easily contactable. There is another meeting at 0930 tomorrow morning.

Tripoli

During the afternoon revolutionary students ordered the police to bottle up the Ambassador and 24 others including 11 women and 2 children in the Chancery building. They have food and water for two weeks. Seven women and 11 children are cooped up in staff houses under "less stringent" guard according to the Embassy. The British community is reported to be well but there is a possibility that 3 Britains are being held, 2 by the security authorities and 1, a BCal manager, by an unknown group in his office. These incidents may not be related to the main events.

I understand that there are likely to be no further communications short of major developments from Tripoli. Earlier in the day however the Libyan Government communicated to the Ambassador to the effect that the siege of our Embassy

/ was

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was in response to events in London. If the British Government took action in London retaliation could be expected. They made a number of allegations about the treatment of their staff by the British police. Replies on these points have been communicated to our Ambassador who has communicated them to the Libyans. There were reports that the Ambassador had negotiated the departure of the women and children in the Embassy building but this seems to have come to nothing.

Mr. Luce has now received replies to his suggestions on diplomatic relations. The Foreign Secretary in Peking gave the same response as yourself. The Ambassador in Tripoli accepted the proposal subject to a number of reservations on handling.

Summary

The overall position at present seems to be that unless we break off diplomatic relations events in Tripoli very much depend upon the outcome of those in London. The essential question which will require decision tomorrow is whether to let the London "siege" run its course in the hope that the Libyan Government will give in or ~~whether~~ to force the pace by breaking diplomatic relations.

17 April 1984

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CONFIDENTIAL

13783 - 1

ZZ PEKING

GRS 205
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 172000Z APR 84
TO FLASH PEKING
TELEGRAM NUMBER 438 OF 17 APRIL
AND TO FLASH LISBON
INFO DD 172200Z WASHINGTON

PA Duts 18/4

FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY
MY TELNO 433: ANGLO LIBYAN RELATIONS.
1. REGRET TUR DID NOT COVER SITUATION IN TRIPOLI, WHERE MR MILES HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE LIBYANS, BUT WITHOUT RECEIVING SATISFACTORY REPLIES.
2. LATEST DEVELOPMENT IS THAT LATE THIS AFTERNOON REVOLUTIONARY STUDENTS ORDERED POLICE TO BOTTLE UP AMBASSADOR AND 24 OTHERS INCLUDING 11 WOMEN AND 2 CHILDREN IN CHANCERY BUILDING. THEY HAVE FOOD AND WATER FOR 2 WEEKS. 7 WOMEN AND 11 CHILDREN ARE COOPED UP IN STAFF HOUSES UNDER LESS STRINGENT GUARD.
3. CHANCERY COULD CLOSE AT ONLY 2 HOURS NOTICE FOR FINAL DESTRUCTION AND SHREDDING. TELEPHONE LINES ARE OUT BUT WE ARE IN TELEX AND CYPHER CONTACT.
4. BRITISH COMMUNITY WELL BUT THREE PEOPLE ARE BEING HELD TWO BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES AND AN UNKNOWN GROUP IS HOLDING BCAL MANAGER IN HIS OFFICE. AMBASSADOR IS ADVISING COMMUNITY TO STAY AT HOME AND LISTEN TO WORLD SERVICE.
5. FROM TELEX CONVERSATION IT IS CLEAR THAT AMBASSADOR ACCEPTS PROPOSAL TO BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT THINKS IT WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL MANAGEMENT. WE HAVE THIS VERY MUCH IN MIND

HOWE

ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS
LIMITED
NENAD
MAED
M & VD
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ZZ TRIPOLI

GRS 165
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FM FCO 171715Z APR 84
TO FLASH TRIPOLI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 145 OF 17 APRIL

ANGLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. FIRST AND FOREMOST WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF YOURSELF, YOUR STAFF AND FAMILIES, PARTICULARLY WITH THE LATEST NEWS IN YOUR TELNO 165. WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU THE MINISTER OF STATE'S TELEGRAM TO PEKING AND LISBON.

2. THE RECENT EVENTS HAVE MORE OR LESS FORCED US TO BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN THE REASONABLY NEAR FUTURE AS YOU WOULD EXPECT. WE SHOULD HOWEVER BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR URGENT ADVICE ON THE MODALITIES AND TIMING. WE HAVE VERY MUCH IN MIND THE NEED TO MINIMISE THE RISKS TO THE BRITISH COMMUNITY AND TO YOUR EMBASSY. ONE IMPORTANT ASPECT IS THE APPOINTMENT OF PROTECTING POWERS AND WHO THEY MIGHT BE. OUR PRELIMINARY THOUGHT IS THAT THE ITALIANS MIGHT BE ASKED TO LOOK AFTER US. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR VIEWS.

3. WE SHOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR VIEWS ON ADVICE TO BE GIVEN TO THE RESIDENT COMMUNITY IN LIBYA AND TO INTENDING VISITORS.

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FM PEKING 172108Z APR 84
TO FLASH FCO TELNO 768 OF 17 APR
AND TO IMMEDIATE LISBON (FOR PS/PM)

FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

YOUR TELNO 431: ANGLO- LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS SEEN YOUR TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS IN LISBON TELNO 150. HE ALSO AGREES THAT YOU MAY ACT AS PROPOSED.

EVANS

ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS
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FM LISBON 171915Z APR 84
TO FLASH FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 150 OF 17 APRIL
INFO FLASH TRIPOLI, PEKING

YOUR TEL NO 431 : ANGLO LIBYAN RELATIONS
FOLLOWING FROM PS TO PRIME MINISTER

1. SUBJECT TO ANY COMMENTS FROM THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY, THE PRIME MINISTER GIVES THE MINISTER OF STATE DISCRETION TO PROCEED AS HE RECOMMENDS.

BYATT

ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS
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FM TRIPOLI 171820Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 168 OF 17/4/84

MY TELNO 167: ANGLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS.

1. ACTING HEAD OF EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT TELEPHONE AGAIN AT 1945 LOCAL TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SHE COMMITTEE AT THE FLB:

WHILE CONFIRMING PREVIOUS STATEMENTS OF THE SECRETARY AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO ESCALATE THE SITUATION OR INCREASE TENSION, WE WISH TO KNOW THE FATE OF THE SECRETARY AND MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. WE REQUEST THEIR RELEASE AND THE RAISING OF THE SEIGE IMMEDIATELY.
WE LEARN THAT THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES ARE PREPARING TO STORM THE PB. WE WARN AGAINST THIS AND ITS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES. RETALIATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT USING THE SAME METHODS. PLEASE INFORM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OF THE ABOVE.

2. I QUERIED THE ALLEGATION THAT THE SECRETARY AND MEMBERS OF THE PB WERE UNDER ARREST. JIRBI SAID THIS WAS THEIR INFORMATION. I SAID IT CONTRADICTED MINE.

3. I ASKED WHETHER MY EARLIER REQUESTS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO TRAIKI. JIRBI SAID THEY HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE BUT REFUSED TO CONFIRM THAT THEY HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO TRAIKI. I SAID THAT I WISHED THEM PUT TO TRAIKI PERSONALLY.

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ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS
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FM TRIPOLI 171740Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 167 OF 17/4/84

MY TELNO 166: ANGLO LIBYAN RELATIONS.

1.ACTING HEAD OF EUROPEAN DEPT AT FLB RANG AT 1900 LOCAL.HE REQUESTED LIFTING OF THE SEIGE OF PB AND RELEASE OF THE SECRETARY AND MEMBERS, RELEASE OF LIBYAN CIVILIANS ARRESTED AT HEATHROW AND RELEASE OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT HELD AT HEATHROW: HE DEPLORED AN ATTACK MADE ON THE LIBYAN SCHOOL AND HUMILIATION OF STUDENTS. HE SAID NO FOOD AND DRINK WERE BEING ALLOWED IN TO THE PB.

2. I MADE THREE REQUESTS.

1). PERMISSION FOR BRITISH AUTHORITIES TO ENTER THE PB.

2). PERMISSION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO LEAVE THIS EMBASSY BUILDING AND RETURN HOME AT ONCE.

3). A MEETING WITH TRAIKI , IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR EARLIER FRIENCLY MEETING.

3. GRATEFUL FOR BACKGROUND AND ANY INSTRUCTIONS IN CASE I AM CALLED TO A MEETING.

4. WE ARE STONE-WALLING ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES.

MILES

ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS
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FROM FCO 172210Z APR 84
TO FLASH LISBON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 89 OF 17 APRIL

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NOW REPEATED TO YOU FOR PS TO PM AT REQUEST OF DEPT WAS RECEIVED FROM TRIPOLI TELEGRAM NUMBER 165 OF 17 APRIL

BEGINS:
MY TELNO 163 : ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS.
1. MY STAFF AND I ARE BEING PREVENTED FROM LEAVING THE EMBASSY BY A GROUP OF REVOLUTIONARIES WHO ARE ISSUING ORDERS TO THE POLICE.

2. I HAVE PROTESTED TO THE DIRECTOR OF TRAIKI'S OFFICE WHO OFFERED TO SEND POLICE CARS TO MOVE THE WOMEN TO SAFETY. I ACCEPTED. FAWZI HANZA THEN SAID THAT THIS ACTION WAS RECIPROCITY FOR SIMILAR ACTION AT THE PB IN LONDON. I AM NOW TRYING TO SPEAK TO TRAIKI.
ENDS.

HOWE

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FOLIS 39/17

ZZ LISBON

GRS 310

CONFIDENTIAL

FM F C O 172229Z APR 84

TO FLASH LISBON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 88 OF 17 APRIL

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NOW REPEATED TO YOU FOR PS TO PM AT REQUEST OF DEPARTMENT WAS RECEIVED FROM TRIPOLI TELEGRAM NUMBER 163 OF 17 APRIL

BEGINS:

MY TELNO 161 AND TELECON HOLMES/MILES: ANGOLA/LIBYAN RELATIONS.

1. I CALLED AT THE FLD AT MY REQUEST AT 1545 LOCAL (1345Z). I HAD ASKED TO SEE TRAIKI BUT HE WAS ENGAGED WITH THE KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER AND I SAW SUWEIDAN AND OTHR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE INSTEAD. THE MEETING WENT BADLY.

2. AS INSTRUCTED I GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF TODAY'S EVENTS, SAYING THAT A DEMONSTRATION OF 60 OR 70 WAS PROCEEDING WITHOUT DISTURBANCE OUTSIDE THE P B WHEN THERE WERE UNPROVOKED SHOTS FROM WITHIN THE P B FROM WHICH ABOUT 12 PERSONS SUFFERED INJURY AND I UNDERSTOOD ONE POLICEWOMAN WAS KILLED.

3. I SAID YOUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN WAS TO CONCLUDE THE INCIDENT AND I THEREFORE REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES TO ENTER THE P B TO REMOVE THE MACHINE GUN WHICH HAS BEEN FIRING FROM THE ROOF.

4. SUWEIDAN IMMEDIATELY SAID THAT PERMISSION WAS REFUSED AND WENT ON TO TALK ABOUT THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IF WE TRIED TO ENTER WITHOUT PERMISSION. I REPEATEDLY INSISTED THAT MY REQUEST SHOULD BE PUT TO DR. TRAIKI HIMSELF BUT THIS REQUEST WAS REFUSED ON THE GROUNDS THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SPOKE WITH THE SAME AUTHORITY. I EVENTUALLY ASKED SUWEIDAN OUTRIGHT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MACHINE GUN AND HE SAID THERE WAS NO MACHINE GUN. I SAID IT WAS USELESS TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION ON THIS BASIS AND LEFT A TENSE MEETING. TRAIKI'S PRIVATE SECRETARY SAW ME OUT AND I REPEATED THAT I STILL WISHED TO PUT THE REQUEST TO TRAIKI HIMSELF.

3. SUWEIDAN ADVISED ME THAT MEMBERS OF MY STAFF SHOULD REMAIN EITHER IN THEIR HOUSES OR IN THE EMBASSY FOR THEIR OWN SECURITY. I AM ADVISING STAFF TO ACT ACCORDINGLY UNTIL THE SITUATION IS CLEARER.

MILES

ENDS

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FM FCO 172215Z APR 84
TO FLASH LISBON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 87 OF 17 APRIL
FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NOW REPEATED TO YOU FOR PS TO PM AT REQUEST OF DEPARTMENT WAS RECEIVED FROM TRIPOLI TELEGRAM NO 161 OF 17 APRIL
BEGINS
MY TELNO 156: ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS.

1. TRAIKI CALLED ME IN AT 1345 LOCAL (1145Z). HE MADE TWO POINTS, WHICH HE SAID WERE FULLY AUTHORISED FROM THE TOP:

1) HE WANTED TO FIND A WAY TO DE-ESCALATE. WHAT HAD HAPPENED HAD NOT BEEN WHAT HE WANTED. MY EMBASSY AND I WOULD BE PROTECTED (I HAVE ALREADY ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED EXTRA POLICE GUARDS). HE HAD INSTRUCTED ALL PB STAFF TO STAY INSIDE THE OFFICE FOR THE PRESENT.

2) IT WOULD BE MOST SERIOUS IF THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES TRIED TO ENTER THE PB.

2. I SAID I HAD NO NEW INSTRUCTIONS, AND REHEARSED MY CONVERSATION WITH SUWAIDAN AND HAFIANA. I REFERRED TO REPORTS THAT SHOTS HAD COME FROM INSIDE THE PB. I SAID I EXPECTED INSTRUCTIONS SOON, AND TRAIKI SAID HE WOULD BE AT MY DISPOSAL.

3. TRAIKI'S HINT THAT THERE ARE SANER LIBYAN ELEMENTS WHICH OPPOSE THESE OUTRAGES RINGS TRUE. IT IS GOOD NEWS IF HE IS SIDING WITH THEM

MILES

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RESIDENT CLERK

MR HARRINGTON F4, HOME OFFICE

CONFIDENTIAL
FM TRIPOLI 171230Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 161 OF 17/4/84

FLASH

MY TELNO 156: ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS.

ADVANCE COPY

1. TRAIKI CALLED ME IN AT 1345 LOCAL (1145Z) . HE MADE TWO POINTS , WHICH HE SAID WERE FULLY AUTHORISED FROM THE TOP:

(1) HE WANTED TO FIND A WAY TO DE-ESCALATE. WHAT HAD HAPPENED HAD NOT BEEN WHAT HE WANTED. MY EMBASSY AND I WOULD BE PROTECTED (I HAVE ALREADY ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED EXTRA POLICE GUARDS). HE HAD INSTRUCTED ALL PB STAFF TO STAY INSIDE THE OFFICE FOR THE PRESENT.

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2. IT WOULD BE MOST SERIOUS IF THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES TRIED TO ENTER THE PB.

2. I SAID I HAD NO NEW INSTRUCTIONS, AND REHEARSED MY CONVERSATION WITH SUWAIDAN AND HAFIANA. I REFERRED TO REPORTS THAT SHOTS HAD COME FROM INSIDE THE PB. I SAID I EXPECTED INSTRUCTIONS SOON, AND TRAIKI SAID HE WOULD BE AT MY DISPOSAL.

3. TRAIKI'S HINT THAT THERE ARE SANER LIBYAN ELEMENTS WHICH OPPOSE THESE OUTRAGES RINGS TRUE. IT IS GOOD NEWS IF HE IS SIDING WITH THEM.

MILES

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FM FCO 171303Z APR 84
TO FLASH LISBON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 86 OF 17 APRIL
FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NOW REPEATED TO YOU AT REQUEST OF DEPT
WAS SENT TO PEKING TELEGRAM NO. 427 OF 17 APRIL.
SECRET
FM FCO 171045Z APR 84
TO FLASH PEKING
TELEGRAM NUMBER 427 OF 17 APRIL
AND TO FLASH TRIPOLI
FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY.
ANGLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. THERE WAS A VERY UGLY INCIDENT AT THE LIBYAN PEOPLES BUREAU (LPB) THIS MORNING WHEN SHOTS WERE FIRED FROM THE LPB INTO A CROWD OF DEMONSTRATORS. REPORTS OF CASUALTIES ARE STILL COMING IN: THERE IS A REPORT, YET TO BE CONFIRMED, THAT A POLICEMAN HAS BEEN KILLED, A WPC INJURED AND 8 DEMONSTRATORS INJURED. THE HOME OFFICE ARE CALLING A MEETING AT THE CABINET OFFICE SHORTLY TO CONSIDER ADVICE TO MINISTERS. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT A RECOMMENDATION TO BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE LIBYANS WILL EMERGE.

2. SOME BACKGROUND IS CONTAINED IN TRIPOLI TELS NOS 156 AND 158 WHICH WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU FLASH.

3. THE LPB CONTACTED THE DEPARTMENT ON 16 APRIL TO SAY THAT PARKING METERS IN ST JAMES SQUARE HAD BEEN COVERED AND TO ASK WHETHER THIS PRESAGED A DEMONSTRATION. HAVING MADE ENQUIRIES WE CONFIRMED THAT THE POLICE HAD AUTHORISED A LIBYAN DISSIDENT DEMONSTRATION BUT THAT WE WERE CONFIDENT THAT THE POLICE WOUL ENSURE PUBLIC ORDER AND THE PROTECTION OF THE LPB. MEMBERS OF THE LPB TELEPHONED AND CALLED AT THE FCO AT MIDNIGHT AND AGAIN THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES IN TRIPOLI TOOK A SERIOUS VIEW OF THIS DEMONSTRATION AND TO ASK FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO STOP IT. WE CONVEYED THIS REQUEST TO THE HOME OFFICE AND THE POLICE DURING THE NIGHT, DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE LIBYANS WERE CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT THEIR THREATS. SPECIAL BRANCH DECIDED NONETHELESS TO ALLOW THE DEMONSTRATION TO GO AHEAD. A SUBSTANTIAL POLICE PRESENCE WAS ARRANGED AND BARRIERS WERE INSTALLED TO CONTROL THE CROWD. TWO MEMBERS OF THE LPB ATTEMPTED TO MOVE THE BARRIERS AND WERE ARRESTED.

4. WE SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED. HMA TRIPOLI WILL WISH TO PREPARE FOR AN EARLY MOVE.

HOWE

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FM TRIPOLI 170645Z APR
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 156 OF 17/4/84

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LIBYAN OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATION

1. I WAS CALLED TO THE FLB AFTER MIDNIGHT ON 16/17 APRIL BY HAFIANA, YET ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE NEW FLB COMMITTEE. READING FROM AN INTEMPERATELY WORDED TEXT HE SAID THAT AN ANTI-JAMAHIRIYA DEMONSTRATION WAS EXPECTED OUTSIDE THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU IN LONDON 17 APRIL. THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES IF THE DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE AND THEY MIGHT INCLUDE VIOLENCE. THERE WAS A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE PB.

2. I SAID BRITAIN WAS A FREE COUNTRY AND I REMINDED HIM THAT THERE WAS A DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE MY EMBASSY ONLY A A FEW WEEKS AGO. I SAID THAT THREATS OF VIOLENCE DID NOT IMPRESS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AT WHICH HE WITHDREW SAYING THAT NO DIRECT THREAT WAS INTENDED. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE WOULD GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF THE PB AND UNDERTOOK TO INFORM LONDON OF HIS DEMARCHE.

3. I WAS SHOWN OUT BY THE UK DESK OFFICER WHO SEEMED AS LITTLE IMPRESSED BY THIS PERFORMANCE AS I WAS. I MADE A BET WITH HIM THAT NO SUCH DEMONSTRATION WILL TAKE PLACE. GRATEFUL TO KNOW THE OUTCOME.

MILES

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HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/MAED

RESIDENT CLERK

MR HARRINGTON F4, HOME OFFICE

FLASH

CONFIDENTIAL
FM TRIPOLI 1709352 APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 158 OF 17/4/84

MY TELNO 156 AND TELECON MILES/HOLMES: LIBYAN OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATION.

1. I WAS CALLED TO THE FLB AT 10 30 LOCAL (08 30 Z) ON 17 APRIL BY SUWEIDAN. SPEAKING IN MODERATE TERMS HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN LONDON WAS ESCALATING AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS COULD CAST A SERIOUS SHADOW OVER OUR RELATIONS. THE POLICE WERE NOW PREVENTING ALL ENTRY TO AND EXIT FROM THE PB AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE DIPOMATIC STAFF, UMAR SUDANI AND SALIH IBRAHIM, HAD BEEN ARRESTED.

2. I SAID THAT ANY DIPLOMAT WHO COULD IDENTIFY HIMSELF AS SUCH WOULD BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY. IF THERE WAS INTERFERENCE WITH FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN AND OUT OF THE PB, THIS WOULD BE REMEDIED. I REMINDED SUWEIDAN THAT, DURING THE DEMONSTRATION HERE, MY STAFF AND I CLOSED ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS AND REMAINED INVISIBLE IN THE BUILDING AND I ASKED HIM TO INSTRUCT THE PB STAFF SIMILARLY TO AVOID ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT INCREASE TENSION. I ADDED THAT IT WAS CLEAR FROM WHAT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED HERE THAT THERE ARE ''REVOLUTIONARY FORCES'' IN LONDON WHO SEEK AN INCREASE IN TENSION AND I ASKED HIM TO RESTRAIN THEM AS WELL.

3. I HAVE SINCE TOLD SUWAIDAN THAT THERE IS NO SALIH IBRAHIM ON THE LIST OF PB STAFF WE HOLD HERE. I SHOULD LIKE TO GIVE THE FLB FURTHER NEWS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MILES

FLASH

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PART 1 ends:-

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PART 2 begins:-

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of individuals in Libya. We have taken the names of the people concerned plus the names and telephone numbers of those enquiring with the promise to call back if we hear anything specific. We have also taken over 50 calls asking for our advice about travelling to Libya. We have taken the line that we advise against travelling at the moment. We have however asked those who may be travelling in the near future to contact us again nearer to their departure date.

Noreen F. Reid

N F Reid (Miss)
Emergency Unit

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